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AFTER THE

Who keeps the diamonds?

PAGE 19



Don't blow the whistle on the fat boys

BRYANT'S EYE PAGE 45



Secretary Marketing ___ 14-PAGE SPECIAL SECTION

Robinson was accused of breaching exchange control rules

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

GEOFFREY ROBINSON faced fresh embarrassment over his personal finances last night when it was disclosed that he was reported to the Bank of England in 1980 on suspicion of breaching exchange control regulations.

Sir Michael Edwardes, then chairman of BL, is understood to have expressed concerns that Mr Robinson may have moved tens of thousands of pounds of personal money between Britain, Italy and Switzerland, when such move-

Callaghan's Labour Government. By the time Sir Michael raised the issue with Sir Kit McMahon, then Deputy Governor of the Bank, however, the Conservatives had returned to power under Margaret Thatcher and abolished the exchange controls. The Bank declined to take the matter further.

Mr Robinson, who as Paymaster General is now under fire over a multimillion pound offshore trust. joined British Leyland as financial controller in 1971, moving to Italy the following year as head of Innocenti, the company's Italian arm. He went on to run Jaguar for two years before becoming Labour MP for Coventry in 1976. When Sir Michael took over as BL chairman in 1977 and inherited

Mr Robinson's three-inch thick personnel file, he found it contained a small section dealing with movements of money. Sir Michael was concerned that Leyland could be regarded as a party to any wrongdoing if it knew of allegations without reporting to the authorities and in 1979 he request-

ed a meeting with the Bank. Arthur Large, who became BL company secretary in 1979 and accompanied Sir Michael to

Threadneedle Street, said: "I have a be paid abroad, but had to spend fairly good recollection of it. To me their earnings in that country or it was quite an outing. The chair-man and I had set up a meeting with Kit McMahon. It was in connection with a possible contravention of exchange control regulations. There had been some movement of funds. We shared with the Deputy Governor the

Under the exchange controls, Britons were allowed to take only small amounts of sterling outside the UK and to invest abroad incurred punitive exchange rates. British expatriates were entitled to their earnings in that country or return it to Britain: they were not allowed to transfer it to a third country. Mr Robinson, who lived in Italy at the time, was thought to have moved money between Italy, Britain and Switzerland.

Mr Large said the meeting had concerned only Mr Robinson and the three had discussed whether the Bank would take any action. "My recollection is that they dedined to do so. They were at that stage unwilling to take it further for whatever reason."

Sir Michael also confirmed yes-

terday that he and Mr Large had visited the Bank. The meeting was arranged at my request, some months after exhcange control was abolished. Matters discussed were as confidential then and, as far as I am concerned, remain so."

At the time of the meeting, Mr Robinson had become something of a thorn in Sir Michael's side and recalling the dismissal of the convener Derek "Red Robbo" Robinson in his 1982 autobiography. Back from the Brink, Sir Michael wrote: "There was far less heat being generated internally than by people. like Geoffrey

Robinson MP. and one or two others who felt that the whole union system was at risk."

The latest disclosure about the Paymaster General came as the Prime Minister again rejected Tory demands that the minister resign over his personal financial

arrangements.
William Hague led a concerted attack on Mr Robinson, saying there was a conflict of interest between his offshore financial interests and his duties as a Treasury Continued on page 2, col 4

Strippers

ambush

Hague

at party

By Andrew Pierce LITICAL CORRESPONDENT

WILLIAM HAGUE'S triumphant arrival for his prewedding celebrations was embarrassingly delayed last night when three strippers accosted him on the doorstep

of the Conservative Carlton

The Tory leader made a

panic getaway as camera

bulbs went off when the three

shed their fur coats and macs

to expose themselves to him

and his fiancee. The three

women had been put up to the stunt by a cable television

Mr Hague pushed one of

them aside as she tried to kiss

him, causing her to stumble

on the slippery pavement in

raced for his chauffeur-driven

car to escape photographers.

chairman Lord Parkinson waiting in the foyer to greet

them, the couple were driven

round The Mall to give them

The three women - one a

blonde, one brunette and one

black - had lain in wait for

the unsuspecting couple for

almost an hour as leading

. Continued on page 2, col 4

time to regain their poise.

With a shaken Ffion Jenkins by his side and a puzzled party

Diary, page 20

Blair stands firm on plan for welfare

By Philip Webster and Juli Sherman

TONY BLAIR told Labour MPs yesterday that internal revolts and fear of unpopularity would not deflect him from reforming the welfare state.

He warned those upset by the cut in benefits for single mothers that there would be still harder decisions to come, and he attacked MPs who handed propaganda gifts to the Tories.

"I always said that education and welfare reform would be the big projects of this government. On education we are delivering. On welfare reform we must deliver, too. There is no backing down. It is essential." And he added: "What we did last week will not be the hardest issue we face in this Parliament,"

But the wounds of the rebellion — when 47 Labour MPs voted against the Government - were again laid bare when Clive Soley, chair-man of the Parliamentary Labour Party, criticised the Government's handling of the change saying that it "made the whole policy look just like another Thatcherite cut". The Government's honeymoon had finally ended with the revolt, he wrote in an article for the New Statesman.

He has since been discussing with Mr Blair ways of improving consultation with MPs so that their views are taken on board before sensitive decisions are made. In his address to the PLP

yesterday morning, the Prime Minister implicitly accepted that future changes would have to be better handled if he were to win support, and he took a conciliatory line to-wards some of his critics. saying there was room in any party for criticism, conscience and dissent".

For their part, MPs raised

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their concerns over the cuts dismantling the welfare state and pleaded not to have to go when it is this party that built through the same agony again: Tony Benn led calls for the Government to think twice before cutting benefits for

disabled people.
The Prime Minister's soothing tone did not, however, detract from his central mess- that his determination. to shake up the welfare state is

uncompromising. He would always listen to people, but governments had to govern. "It is about choices and some of those choices are indeed tough choices to make. But they have to be made. Opposition MPs can always say Yes or Maybe at the very least. In government you have to learn sometimes to say No. Opposition MPs can blame everything on the Government. Government MPs must explain what the Government

is doing and why. Mr Blair added: "I will listen to criticism. I have listened carefully to criticism in recent days. There has to be room in any party for criticism, for conscience, dissent.

"Constructive criticism is one thing. But it should never be made in such a way that it merely provides gifts to our political enemies, or repeats their propaganda about broken promises, when we have broken none, or accuses us of

the welfare state and this Government that will save the welfare state."

In his New Statesman article, however, Mr Soley wrote that the strategy had to be developed more coherently: The problem for Labour is how to create a new welfare state without exorbitant costs or the unacceptable pain of cuts to vulnerable groups such

oarents The Government should be warned by Margaret Thatchon state industries during her first term of office. "It was a harsh way to achieve a positive goal and we must not make the same mistake with the social security system," he

Today Harriet Harman will face demands from Lord Ashley and members of the allparty disablement group to call a halt to any cuts for the disabled. But Ms Harman is expected to discuss plans to get more people off incapacity benefit and back into work.

The numbers of long-term sick claiming benefit have soared to two million, in spite of more rigorous medical checks and Ms Harman is said to be determined to ensure that only those who need the benefit claim it.

Ardour for Labour starting to cool

By PETER RIDDELL

PUBLIC satisfaction with Tony Blair and his Government has dropped sharply over the past month, but people still prefer Labour over the Tories by a huge margin. according to the latest MORI poll for The Times.

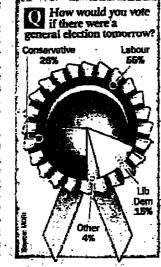
The poll, undertaken last weekend, shows that the recent rows over single parent benefits, beef and the financial affairs of Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, have taken some of the shine off Labour's post-election gloss. This increase in public dis-

satisfaction has, however, been of little help to the Opposition since, faced with a choice of parties, people still back Labour over the Tories

by a two-to-one margin.
The Labour lead remains at near record levels for this period after an election. Labour is now on 55 per cent, down just one point since late November, with the Tories two points up at 26 per cent. The Liberal Democrats are one point down at 15 per cent.

This tiny narrowing in the Labour lead, from 32 to 29 points, has occurred despite a big drop in the Government's approval rating. The index measuring those satisfied mi-nus those dissatisfied with the way the Government is running the country has dropped from plus 24 points to just plus five points. Similarly, Mr

Biair's approval ratings have fallen from their previous skyhigh levels. His net rating, satisfied minus dissatisfied. has dropped from plus 50 to plus 34 points over the past three weeks. His net rating is now plus 73 points, a record for any new Prime Minister. MORI interviewed a representative quota sample of 2,122 adults at 169 sampling points across Britain on December 12 to 15. Data were weighted to match the profile of the population. Voting intention figures exclude those who would not vote (9 per cent), were undecided (4 per cent) or refused to say (1 per cent).





IRA bombers are allowed home for Christmas

By Martin Fletcher, Chief Ireland Correspondent

THREE top IRA bombers, each a high-risk prisoner serv-ing multiple life sentences at the Maze prison outside Belfast, are for the first time being allowed home for Christmas and the New Year to the dismay of their victims' rela-

then the Attorney- General

You showed not a spark of

compassion, said another

Old Bailey judge as he gave

the pair five life sentences each

The three men are the most

Warning to GPs about chicken flu been granted ten days' leave beginning next Tuesday. Magee, 46, was branded a man of exceptional cruelty and Doctors in Britain have been asked to look out for cases of chicken flu, the new form of the disease which has already

killed two people in Hong Kong.
The Chief Medical Officer, Sir Kenneth Calman, has written to all GPs about the virus, which is called H5N1 and was previously confined

"If you've still got it after

Christmas come back

and see me then

Winnie pulls out of ANC contest Winnie Madikizela-Mandela withdrew from the race for

the deputy presidency of the African National Congress. There was wild cheering at the party's fiftieth national conference, in Mafeking, when she made the announcement after keeping delegates in suspense for as long as possible Page 16

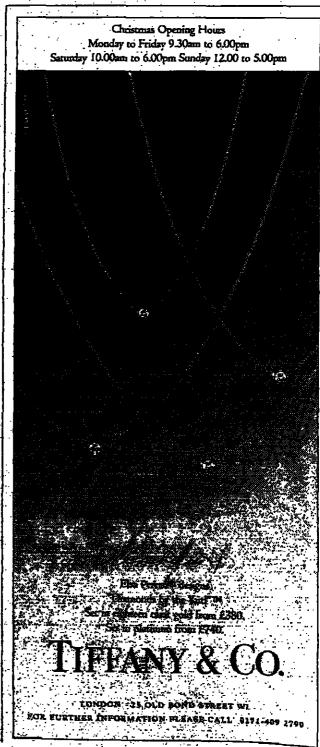
United v Monaco Manchester United will play Monaco in the European Cup quarter-finals. The first leg will be in the Principality on scheme this year. Sir Donald MacLean, whose wife Muriel died in the Brighton bomb, said the men had chosen terrorism, were among the worst of the criminal frateruity and deserved no leniency.

They are getting the concession of enjoying Christmas with their families but my wife Patrick Magee, who planted the Brighton bomb that nearly has not been given that chance. My family has not killed Margaret Thatcher and been given the chance of seeing their mother, and their her Cabinet in 1984, has just children have been denied the chance of knowing their grandmother," he said.

Andrew Mackay, the Shadinhumanity" by the Old Bailey judge who in 1986 gave him ow Northern Ireland Secretary, said he was frankly surprised that such hardened terrorists with appalling records and life sentences are eight life sentences with a recommended minimum of 35 Also being allowed home are Paul Kavanagh and Thomas Quigley, both 41, who conducted a mouth-long being allowed home for Christmas. The public will find it difficult to understand London terror campaign in 1981 including the Chelsea how people with their track record should be allowed a barracks bomb that killed two Christmas with their families

passers by and injured many Irish Guards, a booby-trapped bomb in an Oxford Street Winny bar that killed a demed to their innocent vic-Ken Maginnis, the Ulster Unionist Party's security bomb disposal expert and the bombing of the Wimbledon home of Sir Michael Havers, spokesman, said it was "unseemly that the leadership and top activists of the IRA are subject to exactly the same criteria as the lesser criminals of the terrorist fraternity".

The prison service argues that its home leave schemes help inmates maintain family links and so reduce the infamous of the 160 republichances of them re-offending car and loyalist paramilitary when eventually released. principers — more than a third of the Maze's population — who have qualified for the Northern Ireland Prison Ser-Adam Ingram, Northern Ireland security minister, said no prisoner was allowed home without a "rigorous risk asvices unique Christmas leave



in 1985.

Icy smiles as one honeymoon ends and another begins

inated Prime Minister's The Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition were anxious to demonstrate Christmas spirit to the nation - without missing their final chance in 1997 to be horrid to each other. They tried to do

both. The effect was grotesque. William Hague started with a shin-kick. How did Tony Blair square his Paymaster General's oversight of taxation with his position as a beneficiary of offshore trusts? Was Geoffrey Robinson "entirely

Mr Blair adopted an infuri-

Testive shin-kicking dom- ating smile and an air of relentless goodwill, rather like one of those Jehovah's Witness callers whose expression of infinite compassion - "forgive them for they know not what they do" - grows more serene with every door slammed in his face. His reward is in

> "If I may unite the House." he cooed. "by offering our very heartiest congratulations to the Rt hon gentleman for the celebrations on Friday at his wedding; and, on behalf of all of us, wish him and his fiancee a very happy life thereafter." Blair then turned to Hague's question, adopting the slightly



MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

wounded tone of a toastmaster heckled at a wedding. He defended Mr Robinson.

"May I thank the Rt hon gentleman very much for his kind words," replied Hague, through gritted teeth. Mem-bers had been "very kind to my fiancée and me", he said, turning to the Chair: "and I am delighted, Madam Speaker, that you will be joining us as our wedding. Now it was Blair who was

end, mine is about to begin." "Normal hostilities will now

grinding his teeth.

resume." Chuckle. The Tory Leader repeated his question about Mr Robinson, hitting "entirely detached" with heavy

"He will forgive me." added

Hague in that determined

chuckle he makes his own.

"for suggesting that just as his

honeymoon is coming to an

Sarcasml Blair's smile was ice. The marriage this party enjoyed with the electorate, we intend: to continue at the next election." Tony Blair joins Queen Elizabeth I, the Emperor Hirohito and God in that select group of opinion-formers who believe themselves married to

their people. He repeated his support for Robinson, adding that it was "good that we have highly successful people" in the Government - news received with a rather muted cheer from the humble backbenches behind, most of them some £30 million poorer than Mr Robinson and

all of them without office. The Robinson row spluttried again to impress MPs with the importance of having rich people in Government and was cheered just as feebly the second time.

But the Tories could not quite make their Robinson question stick. Blair was much assisted by Tory backbenchers' complete inability to ask a question succinctly.

Each was so determined to

load his enquiry with clever remarks and damning sideswipes that the Prime Minister got away with replying to each (in so many words) "don't

tered on through PM's Questions, the seasonal joy being, mercifully, at an end. Mr Blair courage — or folly. Robert Wareing (Lab, Liverpool W Derby) told Blair how wrong he was to think money was better spent on the Millennium Dome than on the disabled

To attack your Prime Minister is bold. To attack Peter Mandelson too, is careless.

As I write, three succeeding contributions to the Commons debate, announced on my TV monitor, have come om "Mr Blizzard". "Mrs Humble" and (the debate is on Fisheries," Mr Gill". **Minister** hints at package of help for hill farmers

BY PHILIP WEBSTER POLITICAL EDITOR

JACK CUNNINGHAM hinted strongly yesterday that a package of help for hard-pressed hill farmers would be announced with-

But the Agriculture Minister warned that the whole beef industry would have to be restructured over the next few years as part of reform of the Common Agricultural Policy. Although he said it was not a "done deal". Dr Roads at schools in schools in hardest by first snow

Cunningham, with strong backing from Donald Dewar and Ron Davies, the Scottish and Welsh secretaries. Dr Cunningham is close to winning agreement from Gordon Brown for extra financial aid for the industry.

It will be targeted on hill farmers in the so called "less favoured areas". Dr Cunningham said they were not "fat cat farmers" and their average net in-£6,500. If they were not getting subsidy they would go bust, he said.

But he dismissed suggestions that a large sum of money was available from the European Union.

Of the £980 million which some claimed was available from Brussels, some £338m would have to come from the Exchequer because of rules negotiated by the Thatcher government. He could hardly go to Mr Brown for such a big sum today.

Dr Cunningham suggested that the restructuring would have to be part of CAP reform, but he went on: "We have to move to world market prices. Potatoes, pigs and poultry operate in a world market without subsidy and they compete. Cereals, milk and beef live in a different kind of world." There was huge support from the CAP-butthat was not still not enough to make them

profitable. "We spend £30 billion on infuritating, farmers, con-sumer and taxpayers. You have to be pretty bloody stupied to spend that kind of money and end up annoying everybody."

The single biggest probiem for farmers was the ban, the inability to sell their products on the international market and that was why they had to work hard to get it lifted.

The minister rejected reregulations to ban beef imports which do not conform to the UK's anti-BSE standards. The minister ble and good natured." He



forced to reshuffle frontbench team last night after Labour protested at a shadow minister's links to a chain of nursing homes which they claimed paid low wages.

Michael Fallon was removed from his job as Shadow Trade and Industry Minister after Labour claimed he could have a potential conflict of interest with the Bill to set up a minimum wage.

Mr Fallon was switched to the Treasury frontbench team. Tim Boswell, MP for Daventry, moved from his Treasury post to replace Mr

Fallon, MP for Sevenoaks, was about to be appointed to the Commons committee considering the Minimum Wage Bill which received its second reading on Tuesday night.

However, according to the Register of Members' Interests, Mr Fallon is a paid adviser to Tamaris, a company which manages a chain of nursing homes called Quality Care Homes. Mr Failon resigned as a paid director of Quality Care last June but retains his shares in the firm.

In a point of order yesterday. Denis MacShane, Labour MP for Rotherham, told



Fallon: removed after conflict of interest claim.

the Speaker that Mr Fallon had failed to declare his interest in the firm during his Commons speech on the Minimum Wage Bill on Tuesday night. Mr MacShane claimed that the company paid some employees about £3 an hour.

He told Miss Boothroyd: "I must ask you to investigate this, because despite being invited to declare it last night, there was an arrogant refusal to accept that he has a direct financial interest in rejecting this law and keeping wages as low as possible from which he will draw financial benefit."

The Speaker told him: "All members with a financial interest in the debate, when speaking in the House are required to declare that interest at the very beginning of the

Mr Tebbit, 51, was one of

three on the shortlist to run

GCHQ whose £430 million

annual budget is the largest of

the three security and intelli-

have budgets of about £130

million and £150 million

candidates was from the Min-

istry of Defence. The third

Mr Tebbit who was educat-

ed at Cambridgeshire High

School for Boys and St John's College Cambridge, will suc-ceed David Omand who, after

only after 18 months as direc-

tor, has been promoted to

permanent secretary at the

Home Office.

was an internal candidate.

ence services. M15 and M16

One of the other shortlisted

matter could be referred to Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Standards Commis-

Philip Scott, managing di-rector of Quality Care Homes, said last night that most employees were paid about £4 but admitted: "I know that we have some people below

Mr Fallon said last night that he had been advised by the clerks that he did not have to declare an interest on a Bill concerning general public policy. But he added: "This move has been made to avoid Labour pursuing this particular issue in committee.

"Labour could have tabled amendments relating to nursing homes, and to avoid that potentiality arising in the detailed consideration of the Bill. the move has been made."

Mr MacShane confirmed that he intends to ask Sir Gordon Downey to investigate. "The Tory virus of sleaze has not been eradicated. A frontbench spokesman who is a paid adviser to a low-pay employer should not have been allowed within a million miles of a Minimum Wage Bill. Moving him to the Treasury frontbench will make matters worse. He will be now be hounded by Labour MPs who are concerned about low



One of the strippers exposing herself to William Hague as he arrives for his pre-wedding reception at the Carlton

Strippers upstage Hague at party

Continued from page one Tory politicians and their wives and husbands filed past the ambush into the Carlton Club.

An anxious Mr Hague consulted senior aides on his mobile telephone to see whether the coast was clear. But it was too late; he learnt that photographers tippedoff in advance were by then racing back to their offices with their spoils. Mr Hague was told that the damage had been done and he might as well come back to start the party. He returned, putting a brave face on his embarrassing encounter. Mr Hague's Shadow Cabinet also

managed to tease him last night by

presenting him with a cartoon immortalis-ing his infamous baseball cap.The wedding present depicts him in a regulation charcoal-grey suit with a tiny maroon baseball cap perched on the top of a large bald head. The word Hague is emblazoned on the front of the cap.

The Shadow Cabinet resisted the temptation to buy a more conventional present and chose the illustration instead to tease Mr Hague, 36, over his taste in baseball caps. The Tories' new golden couple are surrounded by members of the Shadow Cabinet who are represented as choir boys clutching hymn books. Few of them look cherubic. They sit around the couple's feet looking more like hobgob-lins. The orginal plan of the cartoonist, David Banks, was to portray the Shadow Cabinet as angels.

The cartoon was the inspiration of Sir Brian Mawhinney, the former Tory Party chairman, who was regularly the butt of

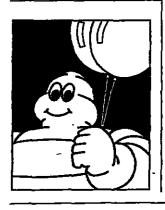
satirists in the last Government. One member of the Shadow Cabinet said of the cartoon: "It is a bit of fun and makes a change from the usual diet of wedding presents of crystal and silver-salvers. William has a terrific sense of humour and laughed his head off when he saw it. He says it will have pride of place in his study.

FO official to take over at GCHO

By Michael Evans, defence correspondent

A senior Foreign Office official is to be the next Director of the Government Communications Headquarters, the signals intelligence centre in

In line with the previous Government's policy of nam-ing the heads of the intelligence services, Downing Street announced that Kevin Tebbit, currently a deputy under-secretary at the Foreign Office, would take over at GCHQ next month.



Blair sees Ulster progress in new year

By MARTIN FLETCHER

TONY BLAIR admitted frustration with the slow pace of the Northern Ireland peace talks last night, but insisted he remained "cautiously optimistic," that progress would be made in the new year.
The Prime Minister, was

speaking after the parties left Stormont for the holiday having failed to agree an agenda. Mr Blair said the differences between the two sides were less than they appeared, "One of the most frustrating things is whenever you talk to people outside the political process, they seem to have a pretty clear understanding of what needs to be done."

Mr Tebbit was regarded as the ideal Whitehall candidate Mr Blair did not attempt a walkabout in Belfast. Last because his current job involves responsibility for detime, loyalists shouted angrily fence and intelligence. He is the most senior link man at at him for shaking Gerry Adams's hand. Yesterday he official level between the Forspoke to sixthformers at the new Waterfront Hall, visited a eign Office and the two services that come under the police station and attended a Foreign Secretary's remit, GCHQ and M16. carol service at an integrated

Robinson was accused of breaking currency rules

Confinued from page I minister. "Isn't it inne he did the honourable thing and resigned?" Mr Hague asked. But Tony Blair insisted that Mr Robinson had abided by the minsterial code. He said "I think that it is good that we have people who are highly successful business people, who come and work for the Government. He is doing an excellent job there for the country without even taking a

ministerial salary." Mr Hague persisted: The Paymaster General has £12 million in offshore trusts. He has admitted to having influence over those trusts. By what twist of logic have you come to be satisfied that Mr Robinson is entirely detached from decisions on these matters?" He asked whether it was time for the Paymaster General to "become detached from ministerial office".

An irritated Mr Blair replied: "The short answer is no. l don't accept that at all. He has not avoided UK tax. He has paid probably more UK tax than either me or you." Mr Hague's attacks on Mr



Sir Michael Edwardes, left, took his concerns about Geoffrey Robinson to the Bank of England in 1980

a barrage of questions from the Tory back benches.

Damian Green, MP for Ashford, said: "Why are you clinging to this minister who is doing nothing but sully the reputation of your Government?" Mr Blair told him: "As has been accepted by the Conservatives throughout, there is not even the allegation of something improper that Geoffrey Robinson has done." Labour MPs jeered as Tim Loughton, MP for Worthing

Robinson signalled the start of East and Shoreham, asked the final question about Mr Robinson and cheered as Mr Blair rounded on the Tories for their 'little exhibition". He said: "The cheek of that lot there, We remember your record all through the past few years...for you to shield yourselves in the robes of financial probity is a joke. It is seen as a

joke, it is regarded as a joke, you have no credibility whatsoever.

Diary, page 20

Warning on quotas to protect fish stocks

By MICHAEL HORNSBY

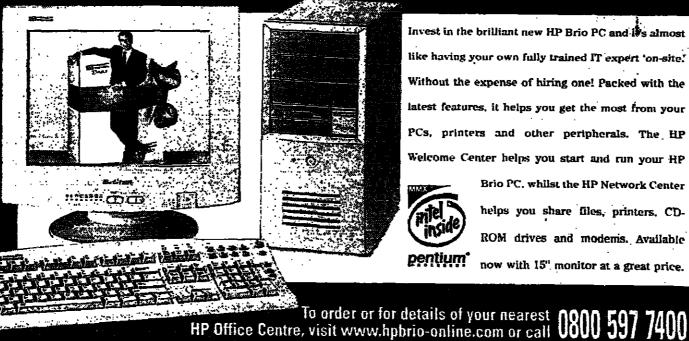
BRITAIN'S most profitable trawlermen were told vesterday to cut their catching capacity by up to 36 per cent over the next four years to protect depleted stocks. Elliot Morley, the Fisheries

Minister, said that, if trawlermen did not co-operate, the Government would have to restrict the days they spent at sea or to declare some waters closed to fishing. The good news, Mr Morley said, was that most of the British fleet did not face any further cuts because the European Commission now accepted that Britain was broadly meeting

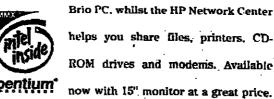
its reduction targets. Mr Morley, speaking in a Commons debate on the eve of annual negotiations in Brussels to fix catch quotas, said the Government had secured agreement on technical changes to the way fleet capacity was measured, which meant most of the British fleet would escape further cuts.

ports of a rift with European partners over new who returned from Brussels after two days of meetings last night insisted relations had been "amica dismissed claims that some countries wanted to see legal action brought against Britain and said the Commission had today confirmed that the unilat eral ban was within EU law. Dr Cunningham said reports that Germany's farm minister Jochen Borchert had been especially critical were illplaced. He said he enjoyed perfectly cordial relations with Mr Borchert, and had exchanged Christmas greetings with him last

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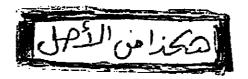
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MCC opens the door for election of women members

After 200 years, fair play wins the day at the world's most renowned cricket club, write Ivo Tennant and Damian Whitworth



AFTER more than two centuries of excluding women, the committee of MCC has decided that such behav-

iour is just not cricket. The most renowned cricket club in the world has long had a reputation for fair play both on and off the field. Only in the way it has turned down the appeals of female players and spectators to join the club has it been accused by some of being unsporting. Now by a large majority, the committee has recommended that women become eligi-

Current members will be able to Club was founded in 1787, the vote at a special general meeting at Lord's on February 24.

The issue has been a vexed one for several years. The committee, which includes distinguished former cricketers in Ted Dexter and Tony Lewis, as well as other prominent individuals such as Lord Alexander of Weedon and Sir Tim Rice, admitted yesterday that it was concerned at being regarded in some quarters as "an old-fashioned male preserve". When the Marylebone Cricket

election of female members was not countenanced. The rules did not explicitly exclude women, other than not allowing them into the pavilion, but the regulations were drawn up on the assumption that it was a gentlemen's club. A twothirds majority of members who vote in February will be required to overturn this.

MCC's committee believes that if women are to become eligible for election, there should no longer be any reason to ban them from the Long Room, although there will be of adopting the general member-practical considerations to take into ship policy of other cricket clubs account it is likely that a ladies playing section would be created, as is the case in other sports clubs. In a letter sent to the 17,500 members (average age 57) by Colin Ingleby-Mackenzie, president of

MCC, the committee states: "It does not believe that the question of the admission or otherwise of ladies should be decided on the criterion of the club's public image alone. Other factors should be considered such as the advantages

ship policy of other cricket clubs and thereby strengthening MCC's links with them; and the wider opportunities for corporate and public sponsorships which would almost certainly result from lady membership."

When the committee considered the possibility of redeveloping the Grand Stand in 1995, an application for funding was made to the National Lottery. Of the reasons given for rejecting this, the exclu-

that a mixed membership would alter the atmosphere of the club and, in particular, the pavilion, and that resources would be needed to adapt facilities such as the lavatories.

The only previous occasion or which this issue was debated was six years ago. Fewer than half the members voted. Of those who did, 2,371 were in favour of a mixed sex club and 4,727 against. The voting is expected to be closer this time. given the committee's lead.

Roads and schools hit hardest by first snow

By Peter Foster, Nick Nuttall and Sumon de Bruxelles

BOOKMAKERS, stranded motorists and snowballing children were all suffering from cold feet yesterday as heavy snowfalls swept across the country, shutting hundreds of schools and causing

chaos on the roads. The bookmakers responded to the Siberian conditions by cutting the odds on a white Christmas from 4/1 to 2/1, despite forecasters' predictions that warmer weather

was on the way.
William Hill, who stand to lose up to £250,000 on a white Christmas, said they were still smarting from last year's record payout: "We are not taking any chances. Last year the Met Office assured us it would not snow in London on Christmas day, but it did," a

The forecasters had more success yesterday, predicting that snow would arrive in London at 8am, which it did. Longer range forecasts, which include Christmas Day ,will not be available until later in

Throughout yesterday morning police reported scores of minor road accidents

slipped and slithered its way to work. A woman was seriously injured in a crash between a car and a lorry on the A48 near Cross Hands, Carmarthenshire, and there was a 10 vehicle pile-up on the Exeter

to Plymouth section of the A38. Morning flights from Cardiff airport were cancelled because of drifting snow on the main runway and a 30mph limit was imposed on sections of the M4 between Cardiff and Swansea

In Cornwall and South Wales, where more than 400 schools were closed, children made the most of the first major snowfall of the winter went sledging and

Motoring organisations reorted that emergency calls had more than quadrupled as commuters ignored warnings and set off to work in the arctic conditions without antifreeze in their engines. Some rail services were also temporarily suspended, including the main Plymouth-Exeter line.

The dense band of snow which drifted up to six feet deep on higher ground, moved



Children given an unexpected day off from school making the most of the snow at Cothan Gardens, Bristol. It is expected to thaw quickly today

steadily northwards throughout the day, carpeting most of England by nightfall. Temperatures struggled to rise above freezing at any point during the day and, according to the London Weather Centre, the wind chill factor made it feel as cold as -10C.

Across the country several roads, particularly minor

have caused him to kill. His

counsel, Paul Worsley, QC,

said that Rich had suffered a

sudden and temporary loss of

control and argued he was

ones, were closed as councils struggled to spread enough grit and salt to keep everyone on the move. Major routes, including sections of the M5, M4 and the main A27 Brighton bypass, were bought to a standstill, as was the southern half of the Isle of Wight.

In Portsmouth, four inches of snow fell in five hours; the

city's first serious snowtall for ten years. Later in the day, as the snow reached North Wales and northern England, several roads were closed in Powys and across the Pennines. The Humber bridge, the Ouse bridge and elevated sections of the M62 were closed to high-sided vehicles as winds gusted to 50mph.

Water companies urged the managers of schools, factories, public buldings and offices to keep a minimum level of heating on over the Christmas period to reduce the risk of burst pipes and the threat of drought next year. They are also asking the Government to out pressure on councils to fit leak detection and automatic

supply shut down devices on pipes especially in schools. Airlines were gearing up to meet the rush of Britons anxious to escape to sunnier regions for the Christmas break. Thailand, the Caribbean and Kenva are among the most popular destinations.

Women warned of minicab danger

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

POLICE yesterday issued a warning about using unlicensed minicab drivers over Christmas and the new year after a woman was raped after

leaving a party.

The attack is the 66th sex attack by men posing as minicab drivers in London alone in the last year. Officers now fear rogue drivers may be targeting late-night party-goers over Christmas as the shortage of licensed cabs due to increased demand tempts women to use street touts.

The latest victim, aged 22 climbed into a car which approached her as she walked to get a late-night snack on her way home from a party in Battersea, southwest London on December 7.

She fell asleep and awoke at a petrol station to discover she was locked in with her seat fully reclined and her seat belt fastened. She was then driven to a back street and raped. The terrified women made her escape after the driver dropped her nearby.

Scotland Yard yesterday appealed for any other women approached in similar circumstances by drivers to come forward, among fears that the latest figures conceal the full extent of the problem.

Detective Superintendent

Bill Grahamslaw, who heads the unit which tackles sex crime in London, said he was very concerned about the number of attacks, which had

Nurse wins cash for theatre assault

By A CORRESPONDENT

A NURSE who was assaulted by a consultant during an operation was awarded £7,500 in damages yesterday.

Theatre sister Andrea Sefton, 46, sued consultant anaesthetist Pravin Kotac and Bury Health Care NHS Trust, in Greater Manchester, for emotional injury and harassment that she suffered following the attack in which she was rapped three times on the

Miss Sefton claimed at Clerkenwell Court, London, that when she complained to her bosses about the assault her duties were switched to packing medical trays in a backroom. The award was made in an out-of-court settlement.

The assault happened at Fairfield General Hospital in Bury in November 1993 after Mr Kotac, the hospital's Medical Executive Director, had asked Miss Sefton to pass him an instrument during an

Before I could turn round I felt his knuckles hit my head three times," said Miss Sefton. After we had dealt with the patient another theatre sister and myself approached Mr Kotac and I asked him not to hit me again. He went totally ballistic and started shouting

Mr Kotac was unavailable

Police listened as women were killed with chisel

By Paul Wilkinson jealousy and obsession with his girlfriend, which could

POLICE listened helplessly on the telephone as a killer used a chisel to torture his girlfriend and her mother to death. The cries for mercy of Eveline Oxtoby and her daughter Lynn were recorded 20 miles away by control-room officers who had taken her 999 call.

By the time police arrived the two women were lying dead in the snow outside their home where they had fled to escape the frenzy of blows struck by Robert Rich, 50. Yesterday he began a dou-ble life sentence for the

killings, provoked, Sheffield Crown Court was told, because he was tormented by the belief that Lynn Oxtoby. 30. was cheating on him. During his six-day trial the

jury heard the tape of Mrs Oxtoby's emergency call from the home they all shared in Boroughbridge, North In it she is heard saying:

"There is man going mad in my house. Please Bob, don't. She loves you. She loves you. Rich's mother, Doris, 73, burst into tears in the public gallery when the jury returned their verdicts. But outside court Mrs Oxtoby's sister Claudette, 61, said: "We're pleased with the outcome. I

hope he rots in heil."

The court had been told that Rich, who denied murder, had developed a personality disorder, manifestising itself in

assault

A BUS driver who threw a 70year-old passenger off his vehicle, leaving the him unable to walk, was yesterday ordered to pay £5,000 compensation.

However, even though Eric guilty of manslaughter on the Stewart recently received a shares windfall of more than grounds of diminished responsibility.

Rich, a retired RAF technician, stabbed his girlfriend 51 times before turning on her mother on January 31 last

Pathology reports said that the number of stab wounds suggested the two women might first have been tortured. Rich kept a diary of his girlfriend's movements. checked her car's mileage,

told that Stewart, a worker-shareholder of the Travel Dundee bus company, re-ceived more than £20,000 when the company was taken over by West Midlands Buses. But George Donnelly, Stew-art's solicitor, said he could not pay the compensation. He had gone on holiday in Flori-

longer afford a car, then that is tough."



mobile phone calls and bank

account and followed her

when she went out alone.

Bus driver must pay £5,000 for

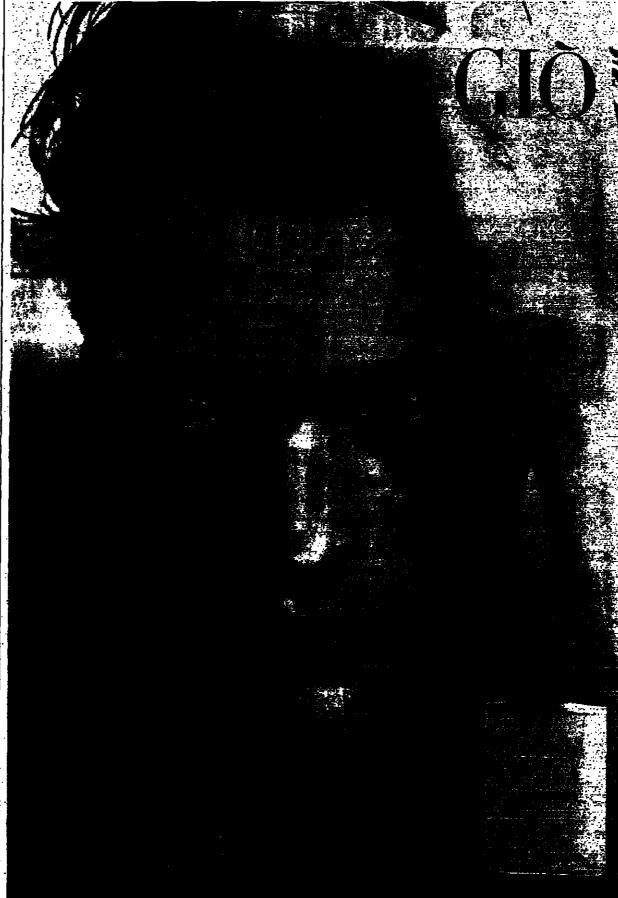
£20,000, he claimed he could not pay compensation because he had spent all the money. Thomas Valentine landed in

a concrete flower bed after he was assaulted. He needed surgery to a leg and nearly died after complications during the operation.

Dundee Sheriff Court was

da, redecorated the house and bought a car with the cash. Sheriff Richard Davidson said that, for no obvious reason. Stewart had picked on the passenger and nearly killed him. Specifying the compensation, he said: This elderly gentleman's remaining days must be made comfortable. If you have to walk around because you can no

Lynn Oxtoby: she was tortured to death



Police chief stole from Harrods

A CHIEF of police from Azerbaijan and his wife stole goods worth £1,000 from Harrods when they came to Britain to put their 14-year-old son into an Oxford boarding school.

Yesterday Khosrov Chamieva, 37, and Rena, 40, a teacher, who had denied the thefts, were fined £2,000 each at Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court, central London. The wealthy couple took more than 50 items, including scarves worth £149 each, pens, purses and designer sunglasses. They had \$10,000 (£6,135) in cash and more than £600

sterling with them during the 45-minute

The court was shown an hour-long video of the couple's visit to the store and the goods, with security tags missing, were laid out on tables. The couple, who spoke through an interpreter, came to England for a ten-day trip in September. They spent the night in police cells after being arrested on the eve of their return

flight to Russia. Mr Chamieva denied stealing a £107 pair of Ray-Ban sunglasses and a letter opener and his wife denied stealing the rest of a ELOS2 haul. Astore detective, Christopher Ryemill, told the court that

separately during their visit but met on several occasions and that on one occasion Mrs Chamieva paid for an item before continuing to steal. She later claimed to police that she was intending to pay for everything in one go after selecting what she wanted.

At one stage Mr Chamieva passed his wife a pair of sunglasses. She placed them into her pocket before passing them back to her husband, after dropping the price ticket to the floor. Mr Chamieva was stronged after setting off an arisi theft. was stopped after setting off an anti-theft alarm as he was about to leave the Knightsbridge store.

Suspended Labour MP appears in court

By Shirley English

MOHAMMED SARWAR. the suspended Labour MP for Glasgow Govan, appeared in court for the first charges of election fraud, attempting to pervert the course of justice and breaking the law on his election

expenses. The 45-year-old MP appeared in private at Glasgow Sheriff Court before Sheriff Charles MacFarlane and Procurator Fiscal Barry Dickson. He made no plea or declaration and was released on bail.

After the hearing Mr Sarwar issued a statement in which he said: "I reaffirm that I have done nothing wrong and I maintain that I am innocent of all charges." He said he had no intention of resigning but would not make his maiden speech to the House of Commons tomorrow as planned.

Under Scottish law, the Crown now has up to a year to draw up detailed charges. if any, against Mr Sarwar and take the case to court. Mr Sarwar could face a fine or iail if he is found guilty of charges of fraud in relation to the late registration of

The millionaire cash and carry businessman, became Britain's first Muslim MP on May I and was the first MP ever to swear an oath to the House on the Koran.



Doctors warned to be on alert for chicken flu

DOCTORS in Britain have been asked to look out for cases of chicken flu, a deadly new form of the disease that has already killed two people in Hong Kong. Sir Kenneth Calman, the

Chief Medical Officer, has written to all GPs warning them of the danger. So far, the disease is limited to Hong Kong, where health authorities have reported seven confirmed cases, two deaths, and an additional 12 suspected cases. The virus, called H5N1, had been found only in birds before the first human case appeared in the former colony in May.

Sir Kenneth has set in motion the first phase of the Government's flu pandemic "action plan", which is used whenever a new variety of flu emerges. He said yesterday: 'All the preparations are in place to ensure that if the Hong Kong-type flu spreads we are well ahead. This is not a panic measure. It is a way of preparing for this kind of thing so we are ready.

The Public Health Laboratory Service monitors the flu strains in circulation by analysing swabs sent by a selec-tion of GPs. So far, they have found no evidence of H5N1 in Britain, nor indeed of any flu outbreak. "Flu is at present at background levels," a PHLS spokesman said yesterday.

Disease that has killed two could spread to Britain,

report Jonathan Mirsky and Nigel Hawkes

The latest victims of the bird flu in Hong Kong, a boy and a girl aged two and three, were cousins of a five-year-old girl suffering from the disease, raising fears that it had begun to spread person-to-person rather than simply from chickens. A spokesman at Queen Mary Hospital in Hong Kong said the children were in "stable" condition after being

admitted on Tuesday. A massive surveillance op-eration has begun in Hong Kong on imported fowl from the Chinese mainland, which make up 75 per cent of the chickens eaten in the former colony. Starting next week, samples will be taken from every truck bringing chickens across the border. The Secretary for Economic Services, Stephen Yip, said yesterday

ment could speed up the laboratory inspection of the samples. Before Christmas, he added, chicken farms in Hong Kong and in China would be checked. There is no health regulation requiring hygiene certificates for imported lowl.

Katherine Fok the Secretary

Katherine Fok, the Secre-tary for Health and Welfare. said yesterday that medical staff throughout Hong Kong had been put on the alert for victims of the avian virus, although initial symptoms do not vary significantly from those of common flu. Hospitals have made contingency plans to handle more patients.

Doctors are concerned that the virus may already have mutated. Keiji Fukuda, from the Atlanta Centres for Disease Control, said yesterday: "It's possible the virus has been circulating among humans and that it's already changed a bit. Viruses change a lot and that's something that

worries us." Although it is not certain yet that H5Nl is transmitted from human to human. Dr Fukuda noted that one of the reasons most of the nine victims are children is that "kids like this are always rolling around on each other in school and playgroups. If the virus is airborne or transmitted by touch, this is the group in which it would be most easily "breakthrough", the govern-



Editor of spoot a spoot

Campbell: declared war on "yellow peril"

Stickers cover up secrets of the civil servants

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT

THE office worker's yellow sticky label emerged yes-terday as a potential weap-on for the Sir Humphreys of Whitehall to avoid the constraints of the proposed new Freedom of Information legislation.

incriminating or sensitive information or remarks can be stuck on to files by officials, and if arryone requests release of the document under Freedom of Information, it is handed over without the yellow stickers.

The fascinating insight into the clandestine world of government was revealed in the Commons yesterday by Ronnie Campbell, Labour MP for Blyth Valley. He had ob-served the practice used by officials in Australia and was anxious that the use of dubbed "the yellow peril"

— should be outlawed under future British legislation.

Mr Campbell asked Dr David Clark, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, if he would make it a specific offence for officials to remove such sticky labels.

He said: "This practice was really not right. People were not getting the right information and were being cheated of it.

Dr Clark accepted that Mr Campbell had raised "a real point" but was unclear whether it could be

made a specific offence. He told MPs on the public administration committee that Government look at the whole issue of record-keeping, and there would be an obligation on them to set new record

management standards. He was unclear whether the practice of using stickers would be covered by the proposed new criminal offence for the "wilful or reckless destruction, alteration or withholding" of records relevant to an investigation by the Information Commissioner. It was clear that MPs on the committee were sceptical about the proposals and how civil servants would

'get round" any tough law. Rhodri Morgan, committee chairman, asked Dr Clark: " Will it be a case of more lunches at the Reform Club rather than circulating advice to ministers?" He urged him to introduce the offence in ahead of the Freedom of Information: "If the new criminal offence comes into being when Fol becomes law then you can imagine a

Smear-test labs face shake-up to allay fears

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

CERVICAL screening services are to be reviewed after Health Department figures disclosed yesterday that two out of five laboratories fail to meet national standards and one in five does too little work to ensure staff maintain the necessary skills for their work. The review comes after a

series of smear-test scares which have shaken public confidence. Sir Kenneth Calman, the Chief Medical Officer, has ordered a rapid review of the work at all 181 screening in England. It should be complete by February. Lack of resources for training staff and running the labs is one of the issues which

will be considered. Sir Kenneth said yesterday he would not hesitate to close down any unit carrying out fewer than 15,000 screenings a year if it was failing patients in any way. The figures show that 34 laboratories handle fewer than that number and that 12 of these also failed to meet the national target for test results. Sir Kenneth said two of these had already been closed and the others would

come under close scrutiny. The new regulations make it compulsory over the next six months for all laboratories to be officially accredited. This means that staff and facilities must meet approved stan-dards and are then subject to external audit of their performance every five years.

Until now accreditation has been voluntary and one laboratory in three has not joined the scheme. They include Kent and Canterbury Hospital, where 91,000 smears had to be rechecked after faults emerged in the quality of screening

there. The laboratory there has now been closed and work transferred to the William Harvey Hospital at Ashford. Kent, where, according to the new figures, test results are still not meeting national

Under current guidelines, it is expected that only between 5 per cent and 9 per cent of tests should be inadequate, either because of faulty technique or because of the woman's condition. A higher number than this suggests that techniques number can mask the fact the laboratory is failing to spot women with abnormalities.

The figures show that 80 of the laboratories have results which are outside these target figures, 57 of them with too many inadequate smears and 23 of them with too few. The Royal Albert Infirmary in Wigan, Lancashire, has 34.8 per cent, while the Royal Surrey County Hospital only registers 1.7 per cent.

Staff from laboratories which do not meet the targets will, where necessary, have refresher training.



whole process of reading and shredding by officials." Calman: will not hesitate Children given chance to

win days out in Europe

By Valerie Elliott, whitehall editor

A DAY out with the British Ambassador in Paris or managing Barcelona football dub are among the prizes on offer to British schoolchildren in a government attempt to make Europe popular with the One of Tony Blair's aims for

the British presidency of the EU is to reduce Euroscepticism and to enthuse young people about Europe. Doug Henderson, Minister for Europe, teamed up yesterday with Baroness Blackstone. Education Minister, and Chris Rogers from BBC's Newsround to launch a series of competitions for children.

"Ambassador for a Day" is open to 11 to 15 year olds and will allow 100 winners to spend a day in Europe. Among the prizes are a day

with Bobby Robson, of Barcelona: Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister; a French cheesemaker; a designer at the Krizia fashion house in Milan; Michael Jay. the British Ambassador in Paris; and a footballer from Borussia Dortmund.

Entrants will have to answer three questions about the EU and state what they would like to do if chosen to be an ambassador for a day in France. A thousand youngsters will be selected for the second stage of the competition when they will be asked to produce a creative entry linked to Europe, the millennium and the environment. They will be judged by region and the winners will spend a

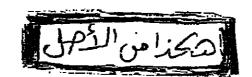
day in Europe. Another competition, "Cele-

brating Europe", could win £5,000 for the school, coilege or youth group which creates a project to highlight the benefit of links between young people in the United Kingdom and the Continent.

Budding fashion desingers are being tempted to compete to stage a catwalk show at the start of British Fashion Week next year and a European youth football tournament is also planned. A special schools pack.

"Partners in Europe", is also available to help schools develop partnerships with schools abroad. The launch took place yesterday at Deptford Green School, New Cross, South London, which has partnership projects with schools in Berlin, Paris and





Editor defends spoof Clark diaries as 'tease'

ALAN CLARK, the Conserva-tive MP and diarist, loves to be "naughty and famous" but is not prepared to be teased by a newspaper, it was claimed

yesterday.
Max Hastings, Editor of the
Evening Standard, said in a written statement read to the High Court in London that he had been surprised that Mr Clark did not see the joke in a series of spoof articles, Alan Clark's Secret Political Diary, in the newspaper.

Mr Clark is claiming dam-

ages and an injunction preventing the London paper from further publication of the articles which, he says, con-fuse the public and damage his reputation as a "serious man of letters". Mr Hastings said the articles, which were written by a journalist, en-larged Mr Clark's reputation for "general naughtiness" and maintained his public profile.

He said that the two men. who had been friends for some ten years, discussed the possibility of legal action at a lunch in June at Wilton's, a fashionable restaurant in Piccadilly. "He asked whether or not that [legal action] would affect my relationship with him," Mr Hastings said. I said that it would not and that, if he wished to pursue the matter through the court, then that was his prerogative. We would each have our respective legal teams in position and may the best man win."

The spoofs, illustrated with a photograph of Mr Clark, are written by Peter Bradshaw, a staff journalist on the newspaper. Mr Hastings said: "The Peter Bradshaw pieces are intended to be - and are a perfectly legitimate tease,

Defence claims articles simply add to 'naughty'

reputation of Tory MP, writes

Emma Wilkins

being in the best traditions of parody and satirical writing. I am sorry that Mr Clark has shown himself not prepared to be teased, especially as, with the greatest respect to Mr Clark, he has always encouraged and thrived on publicity. He loves to be famous and

loves to be naughty."

The "preposterous" content of the diaries, which include references to women in Mr Clark's constituency of Kensington and Chelsea throwing their undergarments at him in excited admiration, were a clear indication of a spoof, Mr



Hastings said. "I do not believe that any interested reader of these articles would seriously believe they were by

According to evidence given by Donald Trelford, a newspaper columnist and former Editor of *The Observer*, Mr Clark's reputation could not be damaged by the articles. There really is no such thing as bad publicity. Anything Mr Clark does or is thought to have done, however disreputable to some, could, in my view only add to his value and

demand for his work."

He told the court: "The celebrity figure gains glamour whatever is written about them because any dirt doesn't seem to stick." At this stage the judge, Mr

It didn't work out like that for Oscar Wilde," he said. "But that was a long time ago, my lord, and before the tabloid press," Mr Trelford

Justice Lightman, intervened.

Matthew Evans, chairman of the publishing firm Faber and Faber, said he could not believe that any reader would think the spoofs were written by Mr Clark. If anyone believed they were, it might be "marginally" to his disadvantage, but would probably not dissuade them from buying

Both Mr Evans and Mr Trelford appeared as witnesses for the Evening Standard to support the newspaper's de-fence that Mr Clark's reputation and future earning prospects could not be damaged by publication of the spoofs.



The Rev Frederic Williams, a rural dean in North Yorkshire, who died with his daughter

Vicar and his daughter die in road crash

A COUNTRY vicar and his 17year-old daughter were killed yesterday as he took her on a driving lesson. The Rev Fredric Williams and his daughter, Stephanie, died when the Citroen she was driving collided with a lorry. Mr Williams, 56, known as Barry, was rural dean of

Buckrose, with responsibility for 15 parishes in North York-shire. The Archbishop of York, the Most Rev David Hope, said prayers for the Williams family. He was deeply shocked, and Mr Williams would be sadly missed, Dr Hope said. The collision happened as

the Williams's car pulled from a lane on to the A64 about a mile from their home at Rillington. John Clayton, a traffic constable with North Yorkshire Police, said that shortly before the accident Mr Williams and his daughter had swapped seats. "Unfortunately, the girl driver was only a provisional licence-holder and a very inexperienced motorist. The family is devastated and distraught."

The driver of the articulated lorry, from Preston, Lanca-

shire, was not hurt Stephanie was a pupil at Norton College, near Malton, where her father was chairman of governors. She had ress in a local pub, and had wanted to become a doctor. Peter Burton, the head-

teacher, said that Stephanie

had been an exceptional stu-

extremely sincere and devout." The Rev Jonathan Couper. vicar of Christ Church, Bridlington, said: "He was a great friend, wise and loyal. We will miss his sensitivity and zeal. He was very highly thought of. Stephanie was a lovely girl who was doing her A levels.

Stephanie Williams, who

was learning to drive

dent and had been offered a

place at medical school. The

school was assembled and

told of the tragedy: prayers were said for the Williams

family. Our thoughts go out to

her older sister, Helen, and

her mother. Jenny. We are all

in shock." The Rev Basil Siddons, su-

perintendent minister of the

Pickering Methodist Circuit.

said Mr Williams "was a love-

ly man, a super guy. He was

She was a girl of great faith."
Mary Wilkinson, Rillington's representative on Ryedale District Council, said: The village is stunned by the



TWENTY thousand fewer people have applied for university places next year, despite an unprecedented last-minute rush, the Universities and dmissions Service

said yesterday. A sixth of the 326,220 candidates for courses next autumn applied in the four days before the deadline passed on Monday. Despite a 6 per cent fall, ministers welcomed the rally as proof that they were winning the argument over next year's £1,000 tuition fees. There had been fears of a

much larger drop than 20.817 candidates, especially since 26.000 extra students were admitted this October after a stampede to avoid the fee.

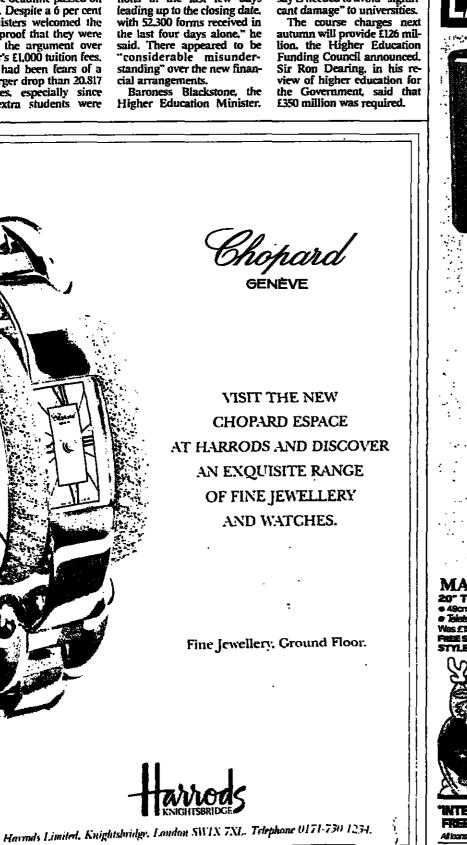
Tony Higgins, chief executive of UCAS, said that potential students might be waiting for clearer details of the fees and a loan scheme being devised by the Government.

"There has been an unprecedented deluge of applications in the last few days leading up to the closing date. with 52,300 forms received in the last four days alone," he said. There appeared to be "considerable misunderstanding" over the new financial arrangements.

Baroness Blackstone, the Higher Education Minister. said she was confident universities would fill their places next year. A leaflet was going out explaining fees would be

means tested. published yesterday which showed tuition fees will provide less than half the money that the Government advisers say is needed to avoid "signifi-

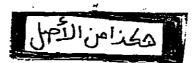
The course charges next autumn will provide £126 mil-lion, the Higher Education Funding Council announced. Sir Ron Dearing, in his review of higher education for the Government, said that





able on request from: Dept. IFO/MK

and Herte HP27TG. (Applicants must be \$ or over, 21 in Northern less



Right, pay

attention

new chaps.

This is

a train ...

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S newest train com-

pany is setting out to recruit

staff demanding they have one

vital qualification: they must

about railways.

know absolutely nothing

Managers of the £440 mil-

lion Heathrow Express have decided to overlook 90,000

railway staff because they feel that most, tainted with the

discourtesy and scruffiness of

bygone rail days, will not meet

the standards required on the

new high-speed service begin-

ning next year.

The high-quality service from London's Paddington station to Heathrow is intend-

ed to attract large numbers of

first class passengers, espe-

Managers believe that the front-line workers suited to dealing with business people

and affluent visitors to Britain

are unlikely to be found

among the guards, drivers and ticket office staff already

cially business travellers.

Another slice of reality in BBC's Peeping Tom TV

private moments are to be broadcast in a new spate of flyon-the-wall documentaries to capitalise on the popularity of voyeuristic" television.

In a move which will reignite the debate on intrusive television, the BBC is to run an eight-part series set in a GP's surgery which films patients during appointments with their doctors, discussing problems ranging from heroin addiction to contraception.

Cameras will also follow the working life of a middle-class male prostitute, employed by wealthy women many years older than himself, who says he works in the sex industry to keep his wife and children in comfort. The cameras stop at

Voyeurism back on our screens

as the docu-soap enthralls British viewers, reports

Carol Midgley

only just finished screening Breaking Point, a six-part series which filmed couples undergoing sessions with Re-late counsellors about their crumbling marriages. On BBC1. Hotel, which followed the often cringe-making lives of staff at Liverpool's Adelphi



Trevor and Tracey confessed all in Breaking Point

which filmed travel couriers in Lanzarote and Ibiza, focusing on their careers and their sex lives, were both hugely popu-

> The GP's surgery, considered to be sacred in terms of confidentiality, was one of the few areas not yet invaded by the fly-on-the-wall camera. But 80 per cent of patients approached at the practice in Minehead, Somerset, agreed to be filmed over a period of eight months. Doctor's Orders will be screened on BBCI early

> Many documentary-makers believe the public mood is changing and Britons are losing their traditional reserve and enjoying "opening up" to the camera in the style pio-neered by the Americans.

Alan Yentob, the BBC's director of television, said: "The British are changing. We would not be able to make these programmes if they were not willing and were not changing their mood." Paul Slade, one of the GPs

appearing in Doctor's Orders, said that he had told cameramen to stop filming "once or twice" when he lelt the patient was touching on "very pri-vate" areas. Asked about the question of confidentiality, he said: "The general principle is that the patients had given their full consent and so had

He said that he and his colleagues agreed to take part



to show GPs' jobs in a realistic light. "People will see that we have off days as well," he said. The prostitute. Joel Ryan, earns an average £85,000 a year with 1,200 clients, the film relates. He lives in Melbourne, Australia, and became a gigolo when his work

as a carpenter dried up. He charges \$180 (£75) an hour.
His wife, Catherine, who also agreed to be filmed and takes many of the bookings on the telephone when her husband is out, says: "As long as I don't know any of the details I can mostly handle it well ... I do know he loves me and he

doesn't love them. If he had an affair, I don't think I could

The BBC will continue to cater for lovers of docu-soaps with The Cruise, filming holidaymakers aboard the luxury cruise ship Galaxy, and Superstore about the staff working at a Tesco store. The acciaimed writer of

Band of Gold. Kay Mellor, will make her BBC debut next year as part of the corporation's new £220 million winter television schedule unveiled

Her new serial tackles the

is a departure from her longrunning ITV drama about a group of northern prostitutes. Filmed in Derbyshire, it centres on a group of women who live for their Sunday morning

Other highlights include the actress Pauline Collins making a rare outing in The Ambassador, about Britain's diplomatic representative in Dublin. She plays a widow coping with her high-pressure job and the resentment of her son. Paul McGann returns to British television next year

when BBC2 presents a new

four-part adaptation of Dick-

Bella Wilfer.

The creator of Men Behaving Badly, Simon Nye, has written two new comedies series for BBCl and BBC2. The Last Salute looks back on the Sixties rivalry between the RAC and AA, and Do You Want Me? is a contemporary story, starring Charlotte Coleman, about an urban couple

a new series of six mysteries starring the comedians Caro-

dropped into village life. Jonathan Creek returns for

ens' Our Mutual Friend. He plays the male lead. Eugene Wrayburn, with Anna Friel as

> working on the railways. Senior figures at the com-pany say that unreliability. discourtesy and scruffiness remain prevalent in the rail industry. "We are different from the other train operators who took over existing services. We can make a clean break and that is what we are going to do," said one manager. A recruitment campaign has been launched to attract more than 120 staff, including drivers, from the customer service sector, particularly from airlines, retailers and

travel agents. Staff considered suitable for driving trains will be selected after interview and be trained by the company. They will be expected also to master customer-service skills, such as helping passengers on and off

The move was immediately ridiculed by Lew Adams, gen-eral secretary of the drivers' union, Aslef. "It is nonsense to think that you can hire a train driver just like that. It takes 18 months to train a driver so they are going to be late getting their trains started. People keep trying to get staff to do every job but they find it doesn't work."

Insurers refuse to drop gene tests

MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

GOVERNMENT advisers yesterday called for a two-year moratorium on requiring applicants for life assurance to supply the results of genetic tests, but the insurance industry rejected the idea.

The Association of British Insurers, which published a code of conduct on the use of genetic tests yesterday, had discarded the idea that it should include a moratorium. Peter Jacobs, the association's chairman, said. There are eight genetic tests which are reliable and which demonstrate either an additional risk, or the absence of risk in which case the

premium." he said. No company asks people directly if they have had a test, but application forms make clear that the insurer must be told everything they know about their own health.

"If a claim is made on a policy, failure to have revealed the results of a genetic test would be grounds to oppose payment," a spokesman for the association said. Several large companies have selfimposed moratoriums on the use of

genetic test results. The proposal for a general moratorium came from the Human Genetics Advisory Commission, which was set up a year ago to take an overview of developments in

Colin Campbell, the commission chairman. "It is far too early to be able to reach any conclusions about how genetic testing can be used to predict life expectancy or the onset of ill-health. Genetic testing is in

He added that many groups feared that they would encounter discrimination. There was also a lack of research in Britain about the ethical, legal and social

implications of genetic testing.

The association's code emphasises that applicants will not be required to take genetic tests but must supply existing results when asked the relevant question.

Test for Neanderthal DNA

By Nigel Hawkes, science editor

SCIENTISTS hope to extract the DNA of Neanderthal Man from fossilised faeces found in a cave on the Rock of Gibraltar.

The fossils - palaeontologists call them coprolites date from 45,000 years ago and were found by an expedition led by Chris Stringer of the Natural History Museum. He is uncertain whether they were the product of Neander thal Man, a hyena or a wolf. Brief examination shows that they contain fragments of rabbit bone and shells from shellfish, which the people who occupied the cave are known to have eaten. The coprolites will be sent to a laboratory in Munich run by Svante Paabo, an expert in. ancient DNA, who last year extracted Neanderthal DNA from bones.

Professor Stringer said yes-terday: "If we do find they are from Neanderthals, and can extract DNA from cells shed

by the person who produced them, we could compare the sequences with the ones from the bones. That would give us a much better basis for comparing Neanderthals to mod-

Exploration of the Gibraltar caves has shown that Neanderthals are shellfish. tortoises, nuts, seeds and a variety of game. They occupied the caves on and off for 60,000 years, between 100,000 and 40,000 years ago.

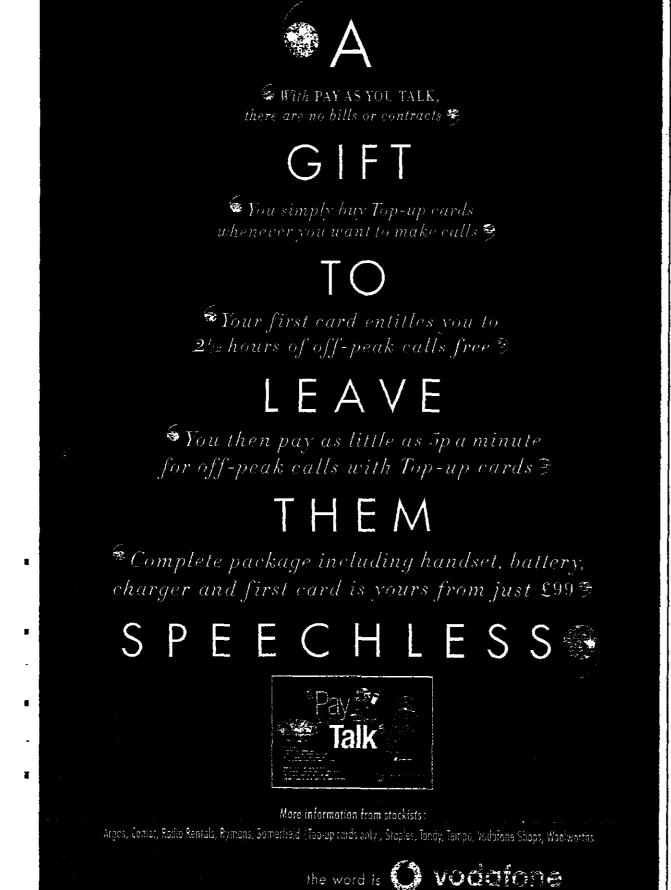
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poem di Beijema

Right attentin \$ new chap

Verse to woman who inspired late Poet Laureate found inscribed in book on architecture

عكذامن ريايمل

Poem throws light on Betjeman's secret love

By Dalya Alberge, arts correspondent

A PREVIOUSLY unknown poem dedicated by Sir John Betjeman to his unattainable love, Myfanwy Piper, has been discovered neatly inscribed in a book on Sir John Soane, the architect of the Bank of England,

The poem was unearthed among hundreds of books and documents being sold by her estate following her death in January at the age of 85. It reads: "Sir John has blest our Union / Myfanwy my own / Here in his grey communion / Of plaster cast and stone ! Green to the skilful skylight / Sir John has made the walls / How chaste and mild the high light/ I On child and cherub falls. March 28, 1939, J.B.* Both Myfanwy and Betje-

people - she to the artist John to write two of his best poems, Piper in 1937 and he to Penelope Chetwode in 1933. She was the librettist of Benjamin Britten's operas. Betjeman's biographer.

Bevis Hillier, described the poem as a delightful jeu d'esprit", possibly "a souvenir of a delightful afternoon spent together". Edward Maggs, the antiquarian dealer who discovered the poem while cata-loguing Mrs Piper's books and is selling it for £950, suggested that she and Betjeman may have had a "jolly day out" at the Sir John Soane Museum in Lincoln's Inn Fields, London.

Finding another poem dedicated to Mrs Piper has excited scholars. She inspired Betje-

most famously Myfanwy: "Kind o'er the kinderbank leans my Myfanwy / White o'er the playen the sheen of her dress, / Fresh from the bathroom and soft in the nursery / Soap-scented fingers I long to caress. / Were you a prefect and head of your dormit ry? / Were you a hockey girl, tennis or gym? Who was your favourite? Who had a crush on you? Which were the baths where they taught you to swim ..?" The poem, with Myfanwy at Oxford, appeared in his 1958 Collected

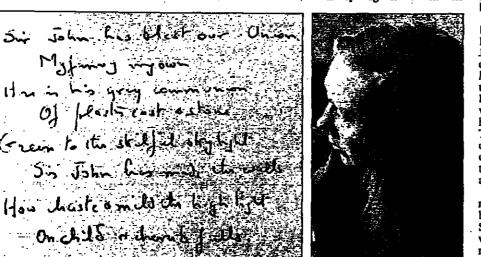
Poems. It seems likely that she was his muse, admired only from afar by a poet whom Philip Larkin once said wrote poems that sprung "from what he

really feels about real life". Mr Hillier said there was no evidence of an affair, "primarily because both the Betjemans and the Pipers were so close as But he added: "One doesn't

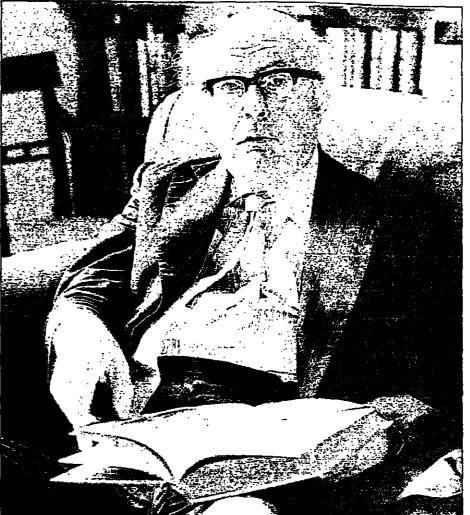
rule out anything in human relationships. There is no doubt that John Betjeman found Myfanwy very attractive. His affectionate nickname for her was Goldilegs, Meeting her seemed to him like the fulfilment of a prophecy because in a book he loved as a schoolboy - Arthur Machen's The Secret Glory a 'golden Myfanwy' was men-tioned, and John Betjernan uses just that phrase in one of his two published poems about her. She was the strong kind of woman who particularly appealed to him."

He doubts that Betjeman -Poet Laureate from 1972 to would have betrayed John Piper, a man who became perhaps the best of all his friends. Piper once said that if he had to choose between his art and laughs with Betjernan, he would unhesitatingly opt for the latter. The two of them collaborated on the Shell Guides to the counties of England, a reflection of their shared passion for

Mr Maggs added: Betje-man made a great display of being madly in love with her. She was the ideal woman. She was perfect because she was not only gorgeous, beautiful, kind and supportive, but also because she was married to someone else."



The poem to Mrs Piper, right, was jotted down in a book on Soane's architecture



Betjeman "made a great display of being madly in love" with Myfanwy Piper



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The great

Rival dealers ignore Sotheby's lead

BY DALYA ALBERGE AND DANIEL MCGRORY

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- On Child in them to July

ART dealers and rival auction houses vesterday rejected the suggestion by Sotheby's that they should follow its example in tightening sales procedures.

Sotheby's introduced new rules earlier this week after a £6.7 million investigation set up after The Times and an undercover team from Channel 4 reported that staff had been rigging auctions :

said she believed that "others in the arts world will follow us".

But a spokesman for the British Antique Dealers Association said: "There is nothing we can learn from Sotheby's. We already have a policy of due diligence and our own code of conduct not to deal in illegal goods. It was there before Sotheby's problems were ever exposed." At Christie's, a spokesman said: "It has

and illegally exporting works of art.

Diana Brooks, Sotheby's chief executive, laws and regulations of all countries in laws and regulations of all countries in

which we operate."

Professor Lord Renfrew of Kaimsthorn, director of the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research at Cambridge, yesterday expressed dismay at the lack of interest in Sotheby's lead. He said Sotheby's had taken "a great step forward" and added: "We will set out to monitor more closely what other auction houses are doing."



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Victory for boys who sued unsafe school



Simon Worthington and Rod Salisbury leaving court yesterday with Simon's father, Peter. He wanted the boys to "learn in a safe environment"

TWO pupils at a dilapidated school in Liverpool were celebrating yesterday after the city council was convicted of putting their health at risk.

Rod Salisbury, 16, and Simon Worthington, 15, from Childwall Comprehensive School, near Allerton, claimed victory in a landmark case after a magistrate ruled that youngsters were in danger of being electrocuted.

So much water had leaked into

classrooms and lavatories in a wing of the 1,300-pupil school that the electrical installation should have been the same as for bathrooms, Liverpool Magistrates' Court was told.

The council has been ordered to repair damaged light sockets, switches and fittings as well as remove and replace any loose masonry in danger of falling on to pupils.

The case, brought by the teenagers

Council convicted in landmark case brought

by two teenagers, writes Russell Jenkins

and their parent-governor fathers. David Salisbury and Peter Worthington, is the first criminal prosecution of its kind under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. The proceedings were monitored by education authori-

ties throughout the country.

The schoolboys complained that the school, some of which dates from the Victorian era, was so squalid that its condition constituted a risk to the health of pupils, teachers and visitors.

Expert evidence highlighted leaking roofs, crumbling masonry on outside walls, disintegrating fixtures and fit-tings and mould and damp so pervasive that it exacerbated asthma. It was

claimed that the school needed emergency repairs estimated at £2 million. The city council denied four charges of causing statutory nuisance under

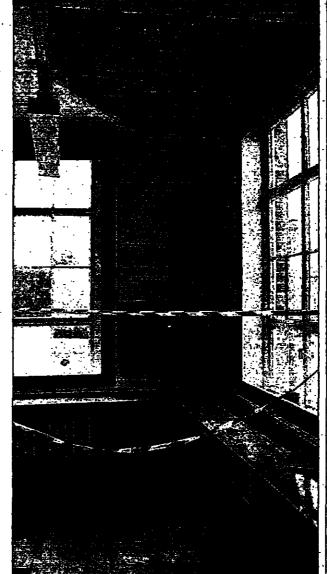
David Tapp, the stipendiary magis-trate, said that the court had sympathy with those who said that children shouldn't be educated in a building like that in this day and age". However, he cleared the council of almost all the charges, except the dangerous electrical fitings and some minor repair work, because the prosecution had not brought the burden of proof needed in

Mr Tapp said in a 25-page judgment:

"I am sure that the condition of the electrical installation due to the ingress of water and the resultant inadequacy of certain safety devices are likely to cause injury to the complainants. And therefore the premises are in such a state as to be prejudicial to health and a statutory nuisance exists."

After the hearing, the pupils drank soft drinks as their parents and lawyer toasted the result with champagne. Simon, wearing his school tie, said: "We have won. It wasn't easy, but it was something that had to be done. I hope now the state of the school can be

Peter Worthington, Simon's father, said he was delighted that the magis-trate had delivered the decision they wanted "to help the children learn in a safe environment that is properly maintained by the school".



Crumbling masonry in a Childwall School classroom

landel. **Dismissed** teacher claims witch-hunt

BY A CORRESPONDENT

A TEACHER who claims she was sacked for being too strict with pupils told an industrial tribunal yesterday that she was the victim of a witch-hunt. Clare Head, 54, dismissed from the £1.700-a-term St David's School at Ashford,

Surrey, after a governors disciplinary hearing, claims unfair dismissal.

The hearing at Croydon, South London, was rold that Mrs Head, from Teddington, southwest London, often played classical music to her played play class of eight and nine-yearold girls because she thought it helped them to concentrate. Margaret Langley, the dep-uty head, said: "I believe it appropriate to have a quiet room to aid concentration. It is

not common practice in junior. schools to play music in class."

She said she investigated a number of complaints from parents. One had said her daughter was afraid to ask to go to the lavatory; others had complained their daughters were being given too much

homework and were airaid to

complain about Mrs Head. Judith Osborne, the head teacher, said said that over the years attempts to make Mrs Head comply with the standards of the school had failed The disciplinary panel had had to decide whether to believe the parents or Mrs. Head, who said their complaints were exaggerated.

'Right to | Hangover die' doctor prepares own death

BY AUDREY MAGEE IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

AN IRISH doctor involved in at least three cases of euthanasia in Britain and Ireland has left for Thailand to carry out his own death.

Paddy Leahy, 80. has bladder cancer and has refused further operations. He intends to kill himself next month by swallowing a lethal dose of morphine, and has already said goodbye to his daughter and son.

Dr Leahy, who has a second home in Thailand, has long advocated patients' right to choose their time of death. Euthanasia is illegal in Ire-Roman Catholic Church and the Irish Medical Council.

The doctor, who worked in a health centre in Ballyfermot. Dublin, admitted helping a friend to die with morphine pills two years ago. Dr Leahy said he had helped scores of other terminally ill patients to die, including Second World War veterans in a Coventry

hospital. He said he would "fight like a tiger" to save a patient, but abhorred the suffering imposed on the terminally ill. "Is it advisable to leave a man in even an hour of unnecessary agony when he's determined to die? I am outraged how suffering and torment are tolerated for so long."

No legal action has been taken against Dr Leahy. His case was referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Irish Medical Council by Bill Tormey, a consultant chemical pathologist at Dublin's Belmont Hospital. But Dr Tormey withdrew his allegations in 1995 because of

hope lies in herbal shops

By Nigel Hawkes

THE long-sought hangover cure may already be sitting on the shelves of herbal medicine shops, according to some

much alcohol.

Carl Waltenbaugh, an alco-hol researcher of Northwestern University, Chicago, told New Scientist: "People I know say that by taking one or two grams of NAC, their head clears in 20 minutes. But it's

work effectively.

over sensations.

The idea ties in with traditional hangover cures such as the "prairie oyster" — a raw egg in tomato juice. Eggs are rich in cysteine, so could have

SCIENCE EDITOR

researchers.

They believe that a dose of

an amino acid supplement called N-acetyl-cysteine (NAC), which is widely available in such shops, can ease the discomfort as the body deals with the strain of too

only anecdotal." There are scientific reasons

for believing that NAC might work. In the body, both etha-nol, the normal form of alcohol in drinks, and methanol, which is present in smaller amounts, are broken down by enzymes. These need the aid of "helper" substances to

One of these helpers, glutathione, is used to clear away powerful oxygen radicals produced by the breakdown of ethanol and methanol. It is in limited supply, and if it runs out, the radicals may do tissue damage and add to the hang-

NAC might repair the deficiency by replenishing the body with the amino acid cysteine, the main component of glutathione, argues New



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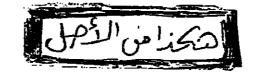
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CHRISTMAS GIFT EXCHANGE

claim Mandelson told witch-ha to reveal more of dome's secrets

should spend more time answering MPs' questions about the Millennium Dome, ac-cording to a report published esterday, which attacks the secrecy surrounding the

project.
The report from the Culture. Media and Sport Committee called for an extension of the monthly five-minute Commons appearance by Mr Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio, who is overseeing the dome exhibition.

The committee, chaired by Gerald Kaufman, complained that the project organisers, New Millennium Experience, had failed to provide enough information about their plans. At times the process of discovMPs demand extra time for

key questions that require

answers, writes **Polly Newton**

ering the proposals for the content of the dome was akin to drawing teeth.

From what we know so far, the Millennium Experience is not so much a journey through time as ... a journey into the

> towards facilitating easy and comfortable transport into its station at the dome site." It says that little is known about the strategy to attract visitors. There was "no clear and catchy slogan, no logo, in fact no visible marketing cam-paign at all." The committee

ports the Government's deci-

sion not to scrap the project,

saying that "there was never a realistic prospect that the

money committed to Green-

wich could be diverted to

another, appropriate single project. But it warns of a

series of potential pitfalls. They include delays to the completion of the Jubilee Line.

which will connect the dome site to Central London, and a

failure to begin marketing the exhibition early enough.

New Millennium Experience

has not explained how it would deal with a shortfall in

projected visitor numbers.

The report states: "We are

deeply concerned by the attitude of London Underground

The committee says that



The Millennium Dome, pictured from the Thames Barrier, lights up the night sky. The secrecy surrounding the project has been criticised

portunity to provide more information. "If they will not produce this information for

poration, I might be happily tantalised. But this is a major public investment of taxpay-

transport, accountability and marketing, but with a project of this magnitude there is no room for complacency." He has written to the Leader of the away too soon." Tony Blair forecast yester-House, Ann Taylor, suggest-

time to answer questions. A spokesman for New Millennium Experience said last night. "We will address a lot of

ing that he be allowed more

these concerns in the first quarter of 1998. That is how we always planned to do it. We don't want to give everything

day that the dome would win public support when it opened. During Prime Minister's Questions, he said: "When it comes to the year

NEWS IN BRIEF

Snatched

baby is

found safe

A five-month-old baby was

found safe and well yesterday. six hours after she was ab-

ducted. Rhianne Crutchley, of Willenhall, near Wolver-

hampton, disappeared after a

woman who called at her

home offered to give her mother, Lyndsey Nesbitt, a

The woman claimed she

had lost her house keys and

was invited to stay the nighth When Miss Nesbitt awoke in

the morning, the woman and the baby had disappeared.

Police found the baby in a car

15 miles away in Bordesley

Green. A man aged 38 and a

woman aged 23 were arrested.

The head of the security firm

SAS, which runs private street patrols in Bristol. has been arrested. Avon and Somerset police seized a shotgun and

ammunition CS gas canisters and a drug at the home of

Andrew Burke, 44, of Clifton,

Bristol. He was freed on bail.

Bigger breakfast

Chris Evans has increased listenership of Virgin Radio's Breakfast Show by 46.5 per

cent — from 1.6 million to 2.3 million — since he took it

over in October, according to figures collected bythe radio

rating authority, Rajar. Radio l attracted 4.6 million.

A Suffolk man who cleaned

out a pond on a common was fined £600 at Lowestoft for

damaging a habitat of the protected great crested newt.

The case against Norman Jay,

4l, is thought to be the first under 1994 Conservation of Natural Habitat Regulations.

A boy aged 12 had a narrow escape after falling asleep in a

skip and being tipped into the

compactor of a refuse lorry. The driver spotted the boy.

who had run away from a Nottingham children's home,

as the mechanical jaws were

Boy rescued

about to crush him.

Newt case

Security arrest

oushchair.

2000, people will see that the right decision has been made." Francis Maude, the Shadow Culture Secretary, backed the report's criticisms, but Michael Heseltine, the former Deputy Prime Minister and champion of the dome project, said New Millennium Experi-

ence would be "crazy"

Work puts

pressure

on family

Christmas

By Paul Whittaker

THE traditional family Christmas get-together is be-

coming increasingly disrupted

as more firms require staff to

Reed Personnel shows the

number of companies opening

on Christmas Day has grown

by a third in the past decade.

and nearly one in ten asks

Organisations opening all

hours now extend beyond hospitals. hotels, BT operator

centres and media outlets to

the service sector and even

manufacturing. Ten years ago, no manufacturing com-

panies in Reed's annual poll

said they had Christmas Day

staff. In this year's poll of the same companies, a small but significant 1 per cent said they would have at least a skeleton

The service sector shows the

biggest increase, from 6 per

cent ten years ago to 8 per cent

now. This is put down largely

to the growth in consumer-led

businesses such as 24-hour telephone banking and other all-day telephone operations.

James Beckford, Professor

of Sociology at the University of Warwick, said: The tradi-

tional Christmas meal for

families has been slipping for years." The trend was just another aspect of the flexibility

of working patterns. "We now have so many service-type occupations which do not have

large plants which have to be closed down over the holiday period, so it is therefore more

profitable to keep these busi-

One in four firms gives

James Reed, chief executive of Reed Personnel, said: More people are working on

Christmas Day than in the

past. Consumer demand seems to be creating a 24-hour

☐ The Times will be pub-

lished on Boxing Day.

bonuses for Christmas working: 2 per cent give treble time and almost 20 per cent offer

nesses running."

days off in lieu.

society."

work on December 25. A survey of 374 organisations by the recuitment firm

employees to work.

staff at work

release details too soon.

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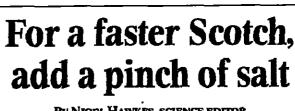
have found how to make whisky mature more quickly, using a pinch of salt and a

flavours from the oak casks in which they mature. Lignin and hemicellulose from the wood impart flavour and colour to the whisky, while tannins also seep in.

The process is long, which is

SCIENTISTS in Scotland before a cask can be reused it has to be scraped to expose fresh wood, and then flamed to break down the lignin and hemicellulose, as well as creating a charred layer to filter out unwanted flavours.

Scientists at the Scotch Whisky Research Institute in Edinburgh have improved the method for reconditioning the casks. By pressing a mixture of salts - mainly table salt into the barrel's stays and heating them under an electric burner, they can produce barrels which mature whisky



By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

large toaster. Whiskies get a lot of their

why whisky must be matured for a minimum of three years. Most of the substances are removed from the surface of, the wood by the process, so



Tories agree to open the books on party funding

counts to a party funding inquiry after the anonymity of their donors was guaranteed. Tory finance chiefs will be

required to categorise the party's benefactors, saying whether sums of money given over the past five years came from individuals, companies, pressure groups or other types of organisation. But the precise amounts given by controver-sial donors such as Asil Nadir. who jumped bail for alleged fraud, will remain confiden-

William Hague, the Tory leader, told MPs that his party would co-operate with re-quests from Lord Neill of Bladen, the public standards watchdog, to provide his committee with details of the party's annual income - in-cluding donations, subscriptions and membership fees since 1992. Mr Hague had previously turned down a similar request from Tony Blair because there was no guarantee of anonymity for individual donors.

Lord Neill, who published a discussion document on his inquiry yesterday, said that it

Figures will be disclosed but the

secret, reports Valerie Elliott

names will stay

about the nature of party funding, rather than get caught up in wrangles with parties about the identities of individual denors.

All political parties have been asked to reveal the size of their donations. Sums over £5,000 must be disclosed in bands of £5,000-£10,000, E10,000-E20,000, E20,000-£30,000 and so on up to £100,000. Donations above that figure will be disclosed in bands of £100,000.

At a press conference, Lord Neill said: "I hope that the parties will be able to give us these sort of ball park figures fairly quickly without breaching any confidences which they may in the past have offered to donors."

Richard Horsman, secre-tary to the Neill Committee on

written to party treasurers, asking them also to provide details of any favourable guarantees and loans below commercial rates, and any other services supplied to a value above £5,000. He also warned them that the information would eventually be published by the committee.

Lord Neill wants the information before the end of February and is anxious to open up the debate on party funding to include rank-andfile party members. An advertisement inviting members of the public to "have their say" is to appear in national news-

Mr Horsman's letter to the parties says: "The committee does not believe it is essential to have full details of the accounts of all parties for past years. But it would be helpful to have a broad indication of the nature of the sources and the scale of the funding of your party in the last few years."

Lord Neill's discussion document outlines the main issues for his inquiry, including the perceived link between political patronage and the honours system; the future of

THE TIMES THURSDAY DECEMBER 18 1997

MPs will scrutinise royal ANONYMITY GUARANTEED - THANK GOD, I DIDN'T WANT TO BE FORCED TO SEND

cap on election spending; and the accountability of parties. He hopes to influence the legislation proposed by Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, to ban foreign donations to any British political party and to-reveal identity of any donors who give more than £5,000. The Neill Committee will make any suggestions for the Bill before its report on polit-

ical funding, which will be

published by the summer.

that he had to make a judgment on the merits for or against state funding in his report, and would therefore be visiting Sweden, Germany and Canada to examine their state funding systems.

BACK THE CORONET FOR A REFUND!

In the document, Lord Neill asks about the relationships between donations and possible conflicts of interest - a clear reference to the row over the decision to support an exemption for Formula One

sponsorship of sport. He also questions the use of personal political funds including "blind trusts", which were used in Opposition by Mr Blair and some of his senior colleagues. He asks what rules should apply to them and whether a blind trust for donations obviates any conflict of interest or creates

significant drawbacks. The committee intends to hold public hearings on the

April and May at venues in London, Glasgow, Cardiff and Belfast.

☐ The new members of the Neill committee were announced yesterday. They are the Tory MP and former minister John MacGregor, Lord Goodhart, QC; the businessman and Liberal-Democrat peer Sir Anthony Cleaver: and Frances Heaton, a former civil servant who is a director of the Bank of England and of

are two years old. Many of the rents that were £45 a week

then have increased to more than £70 a week today. They are mainly paid by maids, butlers and other housekeeping staff for one room. All staff have to pay council tax, utility bills and maintenance costs and some pay tax on the perk of job-related accommodation. It is understood that Sir

John Bourn, the Comparoller and Auditor-General, will be given access to accounts on the royal family's £19.5 million costs on transport for official duties; the £16.4 million spent on the running of occupied royal palaces; and £7.9 million paid under the Civil List.

accounts

By VALERIE ELLIOTT WHITEHALL EDITOR TONY BLAIR is to give MPs the right to scrutinise the

£40 million in taxpavers'

money paid to the Royal Family each year after the disclosure yesterday that some

staff have been paying as little

as 545 a week to live in a

The opening of the royal accounts to Parliament is to be

announced in the new year

when the Treasury responds

to the demand from MPs on

the Public Accounts Commit-

tee to give access to the public

spending watchdog, the National Audit Office.

out the scale of accommoda-

tion available to royal staff

and pensioners and the rents they pay. MPs also wish to know the duties of staff who

are entitled to live in "grace

The figures in the Public

Accounts Committee's report

and favour" accommodation.

MPs will then be able to find

IN PARLIAMENT

Neill should avoid straying into political areas

simple solutions. For instance Standards in Public Life is about party funding. But the consultative paper issued yesterday underlines how hard it will be to produce answers which command cross-party support. As Lord Neill of Bladen admitted, the committee has so far concentrated on broadly ethical questions of standards of conduct. But, The Government has pronow, it is being asked to reach

judgments in highly political The committee's paper poses 39 questions, ranging from donations, through openness, the honours system. state funding and regulation. limits on expenditure, the

"if party expenditure were restricted, should measures be taken to restrict election spending by other organ-isations? Would a restriction be an unacceptable fetter on freedom of speech?" If there was state funding, how should it be calculated and to whom should it go, and for what

posed to ban foreign donations and to require disclosure of the names of donors of more than £5,000. But, as the report asks, how should a "foreign" donation be defined? "Is it improper for political parties to accept donations from foreign individuals domiciled here or from UK subsidiaries of foreign-owned companies?" How can wealthy individuals

be prevented from splitting big donations into amounts of just under the \$5,000 disclosure limit?

The real difficulty is the absence of agreement on the nature of the problem. Some are concerned about the lack of transparency and the risks of big donors buying secret access and influence. Others argue that one party, the Tories, has been able to raise much more money and have enjoyed an unfair advantage in elections. I have always been sceptical of the financial explanation of election results. Total spending in British elections is not large by international or historical standards. Expenses in the 1880 election

(when there was virtually no national campaign) was more than double in real terms the amount spent by all parties in this year's campaign.

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

As long as the purchase by parties of television and radio time remains banned (as it should be). British campaigns are never going to be that expensive. There is no case for unconditional taxpayer funding, though state support for the work of Opposition parties in Parliament should be extended - not least to avoid the type of blind trust which Tony Blair set up in Opposition. Limits on national spending American experience of wide-

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spread evasion underlines. Instead, the Neill committee should focus on openness and the regulation of parties and

elections. As the Bernie Ecclestone affair showed, there is a difference of kind between giving £100 and £1 million. The former should be private, while the latter should be disclosed, to deal with worries over influence peddling and the purchase of honours. The rules would

include front organisations trying to influence elections. Election law also needs to be updated. For a century, it has focused on local candidates and constituency activities, virtually ignoring the existence of national parties or campaigns. This is anyway going to have to change with the registration of parties for the next European elections. There should, in addition, be an election commission to

the rules governing elections. registration, the activities of returning officers and greater financial disclosure by parties. That is a big enough agenda for the Neill committee. It may also be able to clarify the options on state funding and campaign limits, but it should not try to make recommendations on issues which are inherently political, where the parties are bound to disagree.

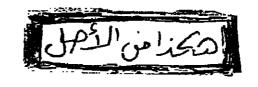
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Prescott gets cooking underneath the arches

IT MIGHT not have matched the haute cuisine he once served on Cunard liners, but John Prescott did not seem to mind as he dished out breakfast to homeless youngsters at the new winter shelter in Admirally Arch yesterday.

Arriving to open it from a near-blizzard in The Mall, the Deputy Prime Minister donned an apron and chuckled with volunteers as he cooked up eggs on fried bread, bacon and tomatoes for the homeless 16 to 25-year-olds who will stay at the listed London landmark until March, thanks to the Government's winter shelters programme.

The menu was a bit more extensive on the Cunard, but I'm as delighted to be serving egg on fried bread that I've cooked myself as serving more exotic fare on the cruise liners." Mr Prescott said.

Stephen Ross, 20, originally from Edinburgh, seemed just as delighted as he tucked into his ministerial fry-up. Twenty homeless people moved into the Grade I listed building earlier this week and 60 will stay in the shelter, run by the charity Centrepoint, when it fills to capacity as temperatures drop.

The Government estimates that 500 homeless people will London this winter and as many beds will be available in emergency shelters in the capi-tal. There are also govern-ment-assisted hostels in Cambridge and Bristol.

The shelter's neighbours include Admiralty House, where several Cabinet ministers, including Mr Prescott, have flats, the Ugandan Embassy, government buildings



A simply furnished bedroom at a prestigious address



Mall, the Queen at Buckingham Palace.

"There are a number of prestigious neighbours, so it's an appropriate statement at this time of the year." Mr Prescott said. "It makes me smile when the admirals are coming out and the lower the lower orders myself, I see that with some relish."

The arch, which housed the official residence of the First Sea Lord until earlier this year, has been largely unoccupied since the Navy moved its offices in 1994. It was designed by Sir Aston Webb in 1904

tion, as part of the procession-al route dedicated to the memory of Queen Victoria. and was completed in 1911.

The Property Advisers to the Civil Estate, which own the building, offered it to Centrepoint as part of the £4 million winter shelters programme in October, and Westminster council granted planning permission late last month. Residents will use the ground and lower ground floors of the south wing, and 300 are expected to sleep there before it shuts in March.

Most will gain access through referral agencies, but there will be emergency drop-in beds, particularly in cold weather. Victor Adebowale, chief executive of Centrepoint, said the charity was pleased to have use of such an appropriate building. "It's going to be a wonderful location, right next to the Strand, where young people can be found sleeping rough every night."

Residents said they were relieved to get into the shelter now that temperatures were falling. "I am glad to be in here rather than on the streets. Who wouldn't be?" Mr Ross said. "But I want to get a more permanent home, not just three weeks here and two months there."

Jason Bernier, originally from Peckham, southeast London, had slept rough for four months. "I think I should have a fairly good Christmas now that I'm in here," he said. "If this place wasn't open I would probably spend Christ-mas Eve in a hotel doorway."

The charity approached the Government for use of the arch when a volunteer, Brigadier Chris Dick, came up with the idea after cycling past the empty building.
Residents will have access



John Prescott provides a ministerial fry-up for the homeless at Admiralty Arch

breakfast and dinner and a sandwich lunch. A laundry is provided, as are showers and lavatories. A mix of shared and single bedrooms will be split between 40 men and 20 women, the usual ratio among rough sleepers.

Centrepoint menta residents as they arrive. Alcohol and drugs are banned from the hostel, though habitual users will be admitted if behaviour remains "within acceptable limits". Drugs projects, counselling

will be attached to Admiralty Arch and every resident will receive housing advice. Streets Ahead, the homeless employment agency, will also have a base in the hostel and full details of the Government's

welfare-to-work scheme, which begins in April, will be given to residents.

Grotto dwarves pay their debt to society

By Paul Wilkinson

A GROUP of offenders are paying their debt to society by putting on white beards and dwarf costumes to help Santa to hand out presents to children in a Christmas grotto.

The offenders are taking part in a community service scheme being staged for the benefit of disadvantaged children on a canal near Mirfield, West York-

The project, created by the West Yorkshire Probation Service, is believed to be the only Community Service Order scheme of its kind in Britain, Normally offenders would be painting church halls, repairing furniture for poor families or fitting security locks.

Instead they are working on the floating grotto on a canal narrowboat moored at Shepley Bridge Marina. There they are dispensing Christmas cheer to about 150 special-needs children who will visit them during the next week. The eight offenders include teenage car thieves and a shop manager convicted of

drink-driving.
Santa, alias Brian Jennings, a retired community service officer, said: "They work really hard at bringing a smile to the kids faces and I think the work is very rewarding."

Margaret Fox, a community service officer for Kirklees district, said: They have an option to come on this scheme or not, but they must dress up and I know they get some stick off their mates in the pub, but they don't seem to

It is nice for people to see the happier side of what offenders can do on community service. They hand out gifts donated by the Sunshine Variety Club and West Yorkshire Police. All the offenders are obviously carefully vetted."

None of the dwarves wanted to be identified, but one dressed as Dopey said: "We know we have done something wrong, but this Christmas time. We have a good laugh together and it is a joy to help bring a bit of magic to the children."

Another helper, who answered only to the name Sleepy, added: "We all think it is a good idea and a useful way of keeping us busy. Being Santa's dwarf is not a soft option, even though some people might see it that way."

Pastor shatters pupils' faith in Father Christmas

By Joanna Bale

THE children sat in expectant silence, waiting for the Rev Mark Woods to address their morning assembly and impart a few uplifting words.

Little did the pupils of Alvechurch Church of Eng-land Middle School realise the innocence of childhood. For Mr Woods, warming to his theme of "the things we leave behind us when we row up", told them that eather Christmas did not exist. Instead he told them to believe in Jesus.

Several of the children. aged nine to 13, went home in tears after the Baptist minister's fortnightly address to the school in Hereford and Worcester. Two parents telephoned the minister to complain and several contacted the head teacher.

Afterwards Mr Woods, who has two sons aged two and three, said he was upset that his comments had shocked some of the younger pupils. Father Christmas.

"If I had known then, would have changed what was going to say. I had the beginning of the assembly that they didn't believe in Santa Claus and I thought children of nine wouldn't believe any more.

"Before I started the assembly I asked all the children who believed in Father Christmas to put up their arms. A



Judith Harkus-Jeffries complained that her son, Luke, was upset by Mr Woods, right

few of the older ones did and a number of the younger ones. I joking, and if there had been a

forest of arms from the rest I wouldn't have gone any fur-



about seven. I wouldn't say the nine-year-olds at the school who didn't know have led a sheitered life, but they would have found out sooner or later. But I admit it wasn't my place to tell them and I hope I haven't ruined their Christmas. If I have, then I

am very, very sorry. example of the things we leave behind us when we grow up, he had told the 100 children that he did not believe in Father Christmas

any longer. But the news was a bitter blow to some of the younger children, including Luke Harkus-Jeffries, nine, who was convinced until then that Father Christmas was real. His mother, Judith Harkusthat she had been shocked when her son told her what had happened. "He said Mr Woods said he

wanted to tell them the true meaning of Christmas — that Jesus was the true meaning of Christmas and Father Christ: mas was made up just like the tooth fairy," she said.

said that because he might have upset some children, and Luke said: 'I was upset.' ". Mrs Harkus-Jeffries complained to the school but said there was little she could do to rectify the situation.

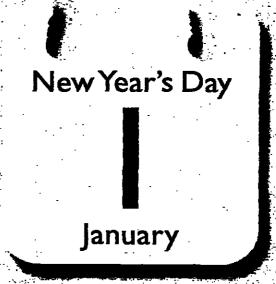
"I decided not to say anything to him because I just don't know what to say. The fact that it's come from an adult and someone he looks up to just makes it more



"Thanks ever so much for the jumper...

Boxing Day December

"No, really, I <u>do</u> like it, honest..."



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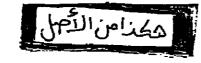
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New fund to pay for legal damages against the State

By Frances Gibb, legal correspondent

THE Government is to create a "public interest fund" to pay for claims where the State has caused widspread injury through negligence, such as faulty cancer screening or use of contaminated blood.

Geoff Hoon, Parliamentary Secretary of State at the Lord Chancellor's Department. confirmed last night that although legal aid was being scrapped for most civil claims. the Government would create the new fund. This will provide for multiparty actions by people who have been injured by the State's wrongwhere there has been a failure of the system."

Other kinds of action which might qualify would be where there had been an inappropriare use of drugs which turned out years later to have an adverse side-effect: or localised environmental actions. But such a fund could extend further, to pay for actions against police misconduct if this was systematic and in a particular locality, he said.

"I would see the public interest as allowing people to bring a claim where perhaps there would not be an enorpeople might be affected and it

is important that the matter be litigated." It is not yet clear if such a fund would also stump up the

initial costs needed for people to bring medical negligence claims — the area of work lawyers say will be most adversely hit by government reforms. The Lord Chancellor has already indicated he will consider setting up a hardship fund when civil legal aid is removed from April for money claims and "no win, no fee" work opened up for a wide variety of claims. That might be used for medical negligence cases which have a 75 per cent chance of success but where investigative costs are high.

The legal profession and consumer groups have attacked the plans, saying that insurance premiums - to protect people against paying the other side's legal costs — would not be available at an affordable level. But Brian Raincock, of Litigation Protection, said yesterday that last year victims of medical negligence won compensation totalling more than El million through "no win, no fee" work backed by his company's in-

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of insurers now in talks with the Government, said that the level of premiums was far lower than people feared: an average of E2,500 over 159 claims funded.

But where such premiums could not be afforded, and the claim had a high chance of success, he has proposed to the Lord Chancellor's Department that the Legal Aid Board stump up the premium, at least to cover lawyers' costs.

If this scheme proceeds, the Government is likely to rule out any help unless claims have a 75 per cent chance of success. Mr Hoon told MPs last month that, of medical negligence cases in 1996-97, only 17 per cent received damages of more than £50. In 83 per cent of cases they won nothing or next to nothing.

Yesterday the Law Society put forward alternative proposals to the Government for reforming legal aid which would widen access to justice and cost no more money, it said. The self-financing scheme would combine legal aid and "no win, no fee" arrangements and could extend to those who do not qualify for legal aid — but only in cases which were deemed



Laura Stanford and Callum Mulcahy were among the children to receive awards from the Duchess of Kent yesterday

Duchess honours brave children

CHILDREN who have shown extraordinary bravery in the past year travelled to London to be honoured by the Duchess of Kent yesterday (Tim Jones writes).

In September, Laura Stanford, 6, who has cerebral palsy, had been expecting to meet Diana. Princess of Wales, who was to launch an appeal for the Osteopathic Centre for Children, London, where Laura is a patient. After the Princess's death, Laura, from Reading, and took the task upon herself.

of the eight to receive an engraved medallion and commemorative scroll from the Duchess at the Woman's Own Children of Courage Awards at Westminster Abbey yesterday. Callum, from Bristol, was born without fingers on his left hand and is learning to use false ones

made from pieces of his toes.
Rachel Turner, 8, from Oxford, is on her way to becoming Britain's junior ballroom dance champion, even though

Rachel already 40 has dance medals. She feels vibration through her feet and, once she has the rhythm, can twirl in time. Sarah Phillips, 13, of Newport, Gwent, showed great presence of mind when she heard pleas for help from a nearby house. Inside, she found a woman giving birth on the floor. Realising the umbilical cord was wrapped around the neck of the baby, whose face was turning blue.

Solicitor accused of theft will not be tried

By Paul WILKINSON

SOLICE a put theil

A SOLICITOR accused of stealing £100,000 of his clients money will not face trial because his doctor said the pressure could kill him.

pressure could kill him.

Bill. May, 59, of Cleadon.
South Tyneside, had a quadruple heart bypass in 1992. He first appeared in court in 1995 charged with 14 counts of their and two of obtaining a pecuniary advantage. The alleged of fences dated from 1991. His condition had caused his trial to be delayed. to be delayed. This week at Durham

Crown Court, Judge Denis Orde ordered the indictment to be stayed after hearing the a trial could have "catastrophic consequences". He said: The defendant would not be able to stand up to questioning and, if the trial were to proceed it is doubtful whether the defendant would be fit

enough to survive it." A prosecution medical expert, Keith Everny, a specialist at the Freeman Hospital in-Newcastle upon Tyne had wanted Mr May to take a treadmill test to see how his heart coped with the exercise but Duncan Walker, a defence medical expert, said the procedure risked worsening his condition.

In February 1995, at a disciplinary hearing, the Law Society ordered Mr May to be struck off for breaching solicitor's rules and improperly using clients' funds.



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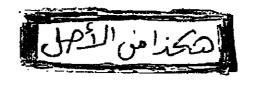
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Solig સંદ_{્યા}

Freezing Russians put their trust in vodka

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

FIYING in the face of scientif- under his coat," said one iceicresearch and basic common seise, millions of Russians, irrluding some of their pets. ar getting through the cold srap with the help of the country's favourite drink

From hunters to ice-fishermen, market stallholders to elphants in the circus, the fatest relief when the temperatures drop to record levels cones in the form of a bottle, ontwo. of vodka.

As the toll from the current cod weather rose to 22 deaths in Moscow and a state of energency was declared in the Blick Sea region, where tempeatures fell to -28C, doctors rejeated their warnings aginst drinking.

ilcohol may make people fee warmer, but it slows the cirulation and can make drukers more susceptible to irstbite. The sensible advice, to tay off the bottle, generally ges unheeded.

I know it is supposed to be bal for you, but there is not a mun out fishing today who des not have a bottle of vodka

ar of heliamace

THE THE YEAR

fisherman. "It is the only way you can get through the cold." Others not only swear by it, but even prescribe it to animals, particularly the large performing variety, which can become unsettled in cold

"I know the trainers give wine or vodka to the elephants when it is cold and they have to move them from place to place," said Aleksandr Venediktov, the director of the main agency for circus performers. "It has the same effect on them as it does on us. It makes you relaxed and easier to deal

A doctor at one of the city's busiest casualty hospitals denied angrily that consuming alcohol had any beneficial effects during the cold wea-ther, and noted that many of the victims were drunks who had passed out in sub-zero

"Alcohol can be used to massage parts of the body which have been subject to frostbite, but that is about it,"



he said. It seemed unlikely that anyone would take his advice. It is well-documented that Russians have been enthusiastic drinkers for more than a millennium, although there is little evidence supporting the medicinal benefits of their favourite pastime.

In the Middle Ages, the Venetian Ambassador to Moscow observed that the Russians were "great drunkards and take great pride in this, despising abstainers".

Throughout history Russian writers have eulogised drinking. Venedikt Yerofeyev, the high priest of drink and author of Moscow Stations,

claimed that he only found spiritual freedom when he was drunk. Vladimir Mayakovsky, the Russian poet, once remarked: "It is better to die of vodka than to die of boredom." His advice is followed by tens of thousands of his compatriots each year, who die of alcohol poisoning, often caused by drinking bootleg vodka.

Nevertheless, there is still hope that science may yet prove the pro-drink majority have a point.

No less a man than Renat Akchurin, the heart surgeon who performed the multiple bypass operation on President

Yeltsin last year, said yester-European cold snap day that alcohol consumed in moderate amounts was beneclaims up to 50 lives ficial. "We have no objections to small amounts of alcohol," he told the weekly Argumenty ICE and snow gripped much i Fakty newspaper. There is Bucharest, the Romanian capital, on Tuesday. "We expect the number of dead to even the so-called French phe-

of Europe yesterday as the death toll from the cold snap climbed to about 50.

Fifteen people have died from the cold in Poland as temperatures plummeted to around -20C. The victims are mainly homeless and those who drank too much alcohol," a Warsaw police spokesman

Seven frozen corpses were collected from the streets of east of the country. (Reuters)

flow to **Albanian** rebels in Serbia FROM TOM WALKER

Weapons

IN SARAJEVO

SECURITY sources in Saraje vo said yesterday they had evidence of an increase in arms deliveries to ethnic Albanians lighting to take over Serbia's southern Kosovo

A European security expert said he knew of a shipment of Kosovo in the next few days. which was being funded by the Albanian diaspora living

in Switzerland and Germany. Tension in Kosovo has risen markedly over the past two months, with a shadowy force known as the Kosovo Liberation Army appearing in public for the first time. This year more than 30 people have died in what until now has been a smouldering guerrilla strug-gle, but the Yugoslav Army has changed tactics and now deploys armoured convoys through the region, whose two million population is 90 per

cent Albanian. The antagonism between Albanians and Serbs was raised a further notch on Tuesday, when 17 so-called freedom fighters were jailed for a total of 186 years by a court in Pristing, the regional capital. UN and other human rights observers described their two-month ordeal under the draconian Serbian justice system as a classic Communist show trial; the Yugoslav delegation walked out of last week's Bosnian peace conference in Bonn because of Kosovo's inclusion. Serbia insists Kosovo is an internal

America and European nations working behind the scenes in Pristina have appealed for calm in the wake of the trial. The weather was their saviour yesterday, as demonstrations threatened by students were repelled by heavy snow. Most diplomats agree that

time is running out for a negotiated settlement with the Belgrade Government, and that armed resistance is an attractive option for the swell-

UN to toughen Iraq arms hunt

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE United Nations will sion test Iraq's mettle by nounting a new wave of agressive inspections at senstive sites in search of hidden veapons of mass destruction, dplomats said yesterday. Richard Butler, the chief

tN weapons inspector, is epected to send in new teams

chemical weapons and ballistic missiles, despite lrag's refusal to allow visits to President Saddam Hussein's

Mr Butler, who chairs the UN Special Commission (Unscom) responsible for disarming Iraq, is to brief the UN Security Council today on his recent talks in Baghdad and plans for future inspections. Before the current confrontation with Iraq b

had planned three biological weapons inspection missions before the end of the year. The Unscom chairman did

report some progress in his Baghdad talks on easing the rules for access to such "sensitive sites" as intelligence offices and Republican Guards

Tariq Aziz, Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister, praised the inclusion in the talks for the first time of experts from fir banned biological and the end of October, the UN Britain, France and Russia.



Primakov: savs world backs Moscow's view

£1499

Kremlin rules out use of force

BY MICHAEL EVANS DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

nomenon which proves that 100-150g [4-60z] of red wine a

day prevent the development

Yeltsin's present illness,

blamed on a cold virus, had

anything to do with the Rus-

Leading article, page 21

However, he denied that Mr

of arteriosclerosis."

IRAQ'S weapons of mass destruction must be eliminated. but not by military force, Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister, said

Speaking after a meeting with Nato foreign ministers in Brussels, Mr Primakov said an "overwhelming majority of the world" opposed the use of force against Iraq.

His tough stand followed a statement by Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, who insisted that options other than diplomacy could not be ruled out in confronting President Saddam Hussein.

At a press conference at Nato headquarters, Mr Primakov said that the Russian Government supported the view that Iraq should fully co-But he added: "One has to he united and firm."

calm about achieving this goal which all humanity craves, the liquidation of mass destrucnon weapons by trag, implementation of its responsibilities on disarmament resolutions, and removal of the embargo on Iraqi oil."

rise in the coming days due to the bad weather," said Vladi-

mir Belis, head of Bucharest's

nian Black Sea ports and

trapped two US warships

taking part in a naval exer-

cise. Power was cut to some

250 villages in the south and

Rough seas closed Roma-

Forensic Institute,

During a meeting of the Nato-Russia permanent joint council. Mrs Albright said: "Experience teaches us that Saddam Hussein will meet operate with UN inspectors. Our demands only it we are

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Jackal denies 'Fatty' gibe made him rebel

THE overweight guerrilla, Carlos the Jackal, on trial for triple murder in a Paris court, has angrily rejected sugges-tions that being nicknamed "Fatty" as a schoolboy set him on the path of international terrorism.

By turns mocking, menacing and obtuse, the Venezuelan-born Carlos (real name. Illich Ramirez Sanchez) has already turned the dock into a platform for his sizeable ego. in a trial that risks degenerating into farce.

In four days of increasingly bizarre hearings, he has rebuked and threatened the judge, cracked off-colour jokes and trumpeted his own terrorist credentials during what he called "an international war ... fought with the pen, the pistol, the bomb and the

Don't forget who I am, and treat me accordingly. I am not under your orders," he ad-monished Judge Yves Corne-loup on Tuesday, after being told to stop wandering off at

Carlos later referred to the violent death of another French judge and looking threateningly at Judge Corneloup, he added: "You are taking on a heavy personal responsibility."

During one of his rambling monologues, Carlos declared: "I was an example for the revolution. The revolution will continue without me . . . I am sansfied.

His self-satisfaction was dented, however, when the prosecution suggested that his craving for atten-tion and determination to seek revenge might stem from being teased at school in Venezuela, where he was known as El Gordo, or "Fatty". Carlos "suffered due to his physique", the court was told.
"I am fat," Carlos responded,
somewhat defensively. "But
it's not a problem. It's not a
complex."

He became evasive when questioned on his ties to the KGB, but described his activities within the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine as "a war against the Americans and Zionists across the globe. The war was international and it continues".

"Does that mean hostage-taking, executions, things like that?" Judge Corneloup asked. "Yes, and hijacking planes."

"Executions?" "Yes, even to the extent of executions of French judges," came the pointed response. While declaring that the legend of Carlos had been "fabricated by the world's press", he also insisted that his

terrible reputation had

"caught the world's imagina-tion". He dwelled lovingly on his own mythology, recalling his 100 passports and 52

udonyms. "Carlos was here, Carlos was there. They said anything. He prepared atomic bomb attacks in New York. I read interviews with women de-

scribing their night of passion with Carlos, which made my comrades-in-arms laugh," he bragged.

Outlining Carlos's early years for the prosecution. Daniel Aberard, a police investigator, painted a less flat-tering picture of the playboyterrorist, describing him as a

wealthy and ruthless charmer "with a very utilitarian concept of women".

To the growing exaspera-tion of the judge, Carlos has declined to furnish specifics of his early activities, maintaining that he would never OD

When pressed on why the PLFP had sent him to Europe, Carlos sneered sarcastically: What do you think? That we were buying tulips in Holland?"

Carlos appears to have con-cluded that he has no hope of leaving a French prison, and has instead used his trial as an

opportunity to show his cortempt for the court and its corresponding admiration for

"I will rejoin my comrada in paradise ... I have hada rich, full and productive lik?" declared the man who, by its own account, has taken lives of at least 80 people.

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A courtroom sketch of Carlos the Jackal, left, and Judge Yves Corneloup on the second day of the trial. Carlos is conducting his own defence



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Albright to meet Arafat in London

By MICHAEL BINYON DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, will this morning meet Yassir Arafat, the President of the Palestinian Authority, in London in a new effort to break the Middle East stalemate. The meeting will come immediately after her talks in Paris with Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister.

Ms Albright will tell Mr Arafat that she intends to press for an Israeli commitment to West Bank withdrawal, although Israeli Cabinet ministers said yesterday that Mr Netanyahu would go to Paris without a map specifying the areas from which

troops would pull out.,,
Mr Arafat is likely to warn her that, without an Israeli commitment, violence could flare up and that Hamas, the ment, will be strengthened. Mr Arafat will later see Tony Blair, and probably Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary. ☐ Jerusalem: Mr Netanyahu yesterday appeared to back-track over his plan to transfer more land to the Palestinians after Cabinet ministers accused him of jeopardising

Israeli spy faces court over war risk

IN JERUSALEM

YEHUDA GIL, a vetern Israeli spy, yesterday pleadd not guilty in a Tel Aviv courto charges that he planted fale information which nearly ld to war with Syria.

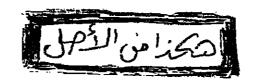
The 63-year-old forms Mossad agent said he ws only prepared to admit the facts in the charge shees regarding his personal detais and previous employment.

A pensioner, he was recrueed by Mossad in 1970 ard continued to work for the agency after his retirement in 1989 on special contract. His expertise included fluent Arhic and the ability to organiz business operations which served as fronts for Mossal

It has been alleged that feyears he had contact with a important official in Syra Damascus but at some point this source dried up. After the period, the Government aleges he began making up r falsifying information that ie passed on to superiors.

Mr Gil denied all ne charges, especially claims that he intended to harm be security of Israel. The hearing was adjourned to January 8





Moral crusader casts a calculating eye on White House prospects



Bauer: his heroes include Reagan and Lady Thatcher

ary Bauer is unruffled that his office, on the fringes of Washington's desolate wasteland north of the Capitol, is surrounded by four fire engines. Ignoring an offstage drama of a perilously dangling window-cleaner, he launches into his favourite argument that the House should be someone who tackles the "virtue deficit" in American life.

It is idealistic leadership, not the niceties of fiscal policy, which is most important, he says. "The Pope, Ronald Reagan and Margarer Thatcher have changed the

course of history".

The question is whether his unabashed moral crusade, and undisputed focus and concentration, can now bring Mr Bauer from the backwa-



AMERICAN AGENDA BRONWEN

politics. Mr Bauer, 51, who advised President Reagan for eight years, has been ubiquitous in Washington life for the Family Research Council. promoting moral and family issues, he has emerged as one of the most influential spokesmen for social conservatives.

Suddenly he is flavour of the month. After a year so barren of politics it is now dubbed Year of the Dog (President Clinton's dog, that is, now formally christened Buddy), both parties are scrambling for ideas. This week the Weekly Standard put him on the cover under the headline "Bauer Power. Washington's Most Formidable Conservative", while the National Review devoted its political column to speculation that he might run for President in 2000.

Mr Bauer grew Newport, Kentucky, in a Democratic family within a Democratic district. His conversion came aged 17, when tempt to elect a new sheriff and rid the city of organised crime. Their candidate was defeated when found in bed with a prostitute, but Mr. Bauer claims "he was kidnapped and drugged and propped up in bed with her". After this skulduggery was exposed, he says, their candidate won the next election.

ith less drama, he has since fashioned himself into a model of the bright, articulate "communicator" with a solid hairline and a good handshake for whom Washington is a magnet. Most become lawyers: those like Mr Bauer who have found their cause must then grapple with turning their skill into real power.

swung onto him this year when he struck a series of unexpected alliances to promote his beliefs. He stood with Richard Gere to protest Zemin's visit. He joined with the unions in an unsuccessful bid to block renewal of China's "most favoured nation" trading status. He is as "troubled" as liberals by welfare reforms forcing single mothers with young children out to

work. Although he supports

Republican tax-cutting plans, he worries that they favour

businesses more than In many eyes, his performance this year eclipsed that of the Christian Coalition, less confident since the departure of its leader Ralph Reed and since "Religious Right" acMr Bauer's political action committee, started in February, has raised \$2.2 million (£1.3 million), which it is doling out for local elections.

e does not dismiss talk of presidential ambitions. "I want certain ideas to run, and I'm hoping that some logical, viable, political figure — a senator or governor -- will embrace there," he says. "But if no one does that, I feel an obligation to pray about whether this is something I ought to do".

It does, though, seem un-likely that he could make the White House. His beliefs fall between too many stools to campaign trail. Many of his

mending the "broken hearts and broken psyches" of the 1960s sexual revolution, may strike a chord in Middle America, but require little from central government. Not least, he may be too short for popular taste, at several inches over 5ft. Lack of height is not an automatic bar to the presidency — the shortest was James Madison, who at 5ft 4in weighed less than 1001b -

but it does not help.
It is possible that he would surface in the next few years to be a vice-presidential running-mate. But most likely he will remain what he is now: one of the nation's best moral lobbyists, and a potentially decisive factor in determining which of his Republican colleagues is picked to run for the



Mothers feud over legacy of dead child pilot

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

NEARLY two years after her take off from a remote Wyodeath, the little girl who wanted to be the youngest plot to fly across America is at tle centre of an ugly courtnom battle between her mother and stenmather over said that it w million (£1.8 million) of life

Lisa Hathaway, whose sev-

ming airfield, is being sued by the widow of Jessica's father for nearly \$1 million. The case has gone to trial in California, where Ms Hathaway's lawyer

Months before her doomed flight, Jessica's father, Lloyd en-year-old daughter, Jessica Dubroff, bought four life in-Lubroff, died while trying to surance policies each worth suing for half the proceeds of based on a "community prop-

\$750,000. His death, along with his daughter and her flight instructor in the cockpit of an over-laden single-engined aircraft, triggered national soul-searching and a

His then wife, Melinda Hurst Dubroff, was named as beneficiary of two of the .

bitter row over his esta

Jessica Dubroff in the Cessna at Half Moon Bay airport near San Francisco at the start of her ill-fated attempt to fly coast-to-coast last April the other two as well, even though they were made out in the name of Ms Hathaway. the mother of Mr Dubroff's three eldest children.

Mrs Dubroff is also claim-\$150,000 that her husband gave Ms Hathaway in the final years of his life.

erty interest" that gives her . toys and watched no television half Mr Dubroff's estate at home. Instead she enjoyed under Californian marriage laws. However, her legal wrangling could not contrast more starkly with the New

Jessica's brief life. Raised in what friends described as unconventional bliss, Jessica was a vegetarian, never went to school, had no

at home. Instead she enjoyed "home schooling", private riding and music lessons, and an early introduction to flying.

Her attempt to fly coast-tooast across America in Apri 1996 was strongly encouraged both parents. Jessica left Half Moon Bay near San Francisco, with her 52-yearold instructor in the co-pilot's

seat of a rented Cessna after logging only 35 hours in the air. The plane crashed a day later, seconds after trying to take off from Cheyenne's airaircraft was probably overloaded and should never have

tried to take off. Mrs Dubroff's lawsuit is the latest in a series of three. Ms under-age competitive flying.

spiritual healer, opened the hostilities by suing for \$1.5 million in child support last year. Another suit accusing Cessna and the flight gence, remains unresolved. Ms Hathaway is also trying

to repeal a federal law passed

after Jessica's death banning



FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE Latvian starlet sued for the return of \$500,000 (£303,000) in gifts by a jilted Wall Street trader has settled the case by

handing back her nine-carat diamond ring, but will keep his other presents. Ines Misan, a twentysomething model and aspring actress, agreed to return the \$289,275 rock that the doting financier. John Lattanzio, 49, claims he gave her as an engagement ring.

But the blonde gets to keep four other peces of jewellery named in the case, worth another \$210,000 — a Cartier damond necklace, a Van Cleef & Arpels damond ring, a crocodile-skin purse by Fermes; and two rings from Harry

10

Winston. "I have a good deal and I'm very happy with it," Miss Misan said before driving off in the Mercedes given to her by her former boyfriend. "It's very

Mr Lattanzio, who lavished an estimated \$3 million on Miss Misan during their two-year affair, had gone to court to ask for the nine-carat diamond ring back under a New York law allowing the return of gifts given "in contemplation of marriage". She said he bought her the ring at Harry Winston to make up with her after a temporary separation, and that she never promised to marry him.

Although the precise terms of the settlement were confidential, sources said that Mr Lattanzio, a high-flying Wall Street trader who runs his own hedge

fund, was not concerned about money but about the engagement ring, which he

considered a "love token". The deal was believed to contain a cash payment to Miss Misan worth tens of thousands of dollars, and a promise to continue paying the rent on her family's

apartment in Brooklyn. Miss Misan will be allowed to remain in the luxury flat he bought for her for another five years, and then keep the profits from its sale.

"Everything's settled," Mr Lattanzio told a reporter before slamming the door to his house in Greenwich Village. "We made a fair agreement and we're moving on. Merry Christmas."

Grace Bradberry, page 19



Misan: says she is

Hamburger tax has its chips

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

BILL CLINTON'S love of fast food did little for his hopes of immortality yesterday after residents in Little Rock refused an increase in the local "hamburger" tax to pay for his presidential library in the Arkansas state capital.

The local council had planned to raise taxes on hamburgers, the effective local levy for restaurants and hotels, from two to three cents to raise \$42 million (£25.8 million) for a 26-acre site chosen

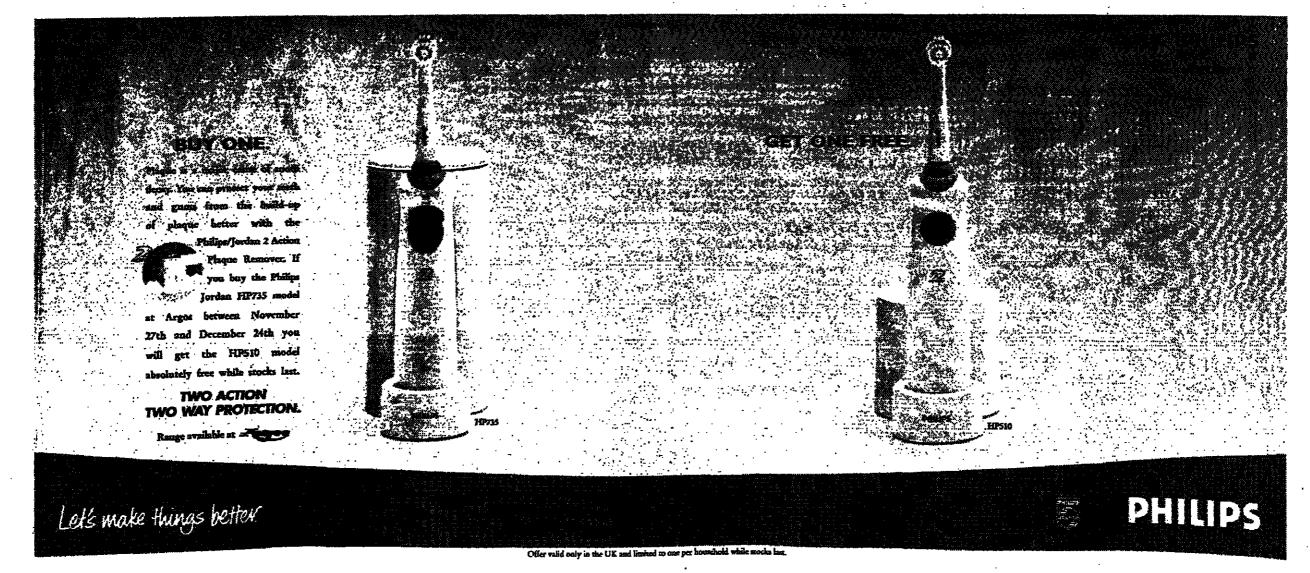
rename part of Little Rock's main thoroughfare after the man who was Governor of Arkansas for 12 years. Furious at the lack of consultation, the burghers of Little Rock complained that they had no say in

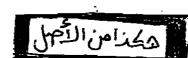
The city board finally ap-proved yesterday the use of \$15 million in bond revenues to buy the site while a further \$7.5 million will be employed to improve the Little Rock Zoo and three nearby golf courses, presumably as further encour-

new River Market district. sessed by the sport. No decision has been taken on whether Markham Street will be

renamed Clinton Drive. Jim Dailey, the Mayor, said the controversy had not been as a result of any lack of support for Mr Clinton. "We jumped out rather quickly and expanded the project without making sure the public understood just how we were going to pay for it, and raised a big

stink as a result," he said. Mr Clinton had been considering various sites for his library, but in April he chose Little Rock and last month selected the central site.





Turkey threatens

to end bid for EU

Ankara: Mesut Yilmaz, the Prime Minister, said yesterday Turkey would withdraw its application for European Union

membership by June if it were not included in a list of candidates, the state-run Anatolian news agency said.

Earlier this week Mr Yilmaz vowed to freeze ties with the

EU after it decided at its Luxembourg summit to exclude

Turkey from its formal list of 11 future members. "We will not

change our position until we are put in a basket with the li countries," Mr Yilmaz declared. (Reuters) Letters. page 21

Yeltsin set to resume work

Moscow: President Yeltsin will return to work next week and

plans to visit India in January, the Kremlin said (Richard Beeston writes). "His health is satisfactory." said Sergei Yastrzhembsky. Mr Yeltsin's spokesman. "The doctors said (on December 10) that the President would be back within ten

Strasbourg: A gay member of the European Parliament plans to visit EU applicant countries with his boyfriend to underline that the Union protects gays from discrimination. Peter Pex, a Dutch Christian Democrat, said homosexuality

was forbidden in Cyprus and, while legal in Romania, visiting gay couples faced arrest there. (Reuters)

Sakharov prize for Algerian

Strasbourg: Salima Ghezali, an Algerian human rights

campaigner, received the European Parliament's Sakharov

Prize for freedom of thought, worth 15,000 ecus (£10,000), and called for an international inquiry into massacres in her country. She said an inquiry could end the impunity with which both sides in Algeria blamed the other. (Reuters)

Brindisi: A woman was arrested vesterday on suspicion of

being the "godmother" of one of Italy's most important Mafia

clans. Maria Buccarella, 42, is thought to have taken over the Sacra Corona Unita, the Mafia of the southeastern Apulia

region, from her brother. She and three other women were

to 12 days and he is going to be back within that time."

Homosexual grand tour

Ankara first applied to join in 1963.

ANC joy as Winnie quits race

Sam Kiley in Mafeking reports on

the drama as the African queen

turns defeat into a publicity victory

SNATCHING a publicity victory from the jaws of certain Political defeat, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela withdrew yesterday from the race for the deputy presidency of the African National Congress, to the delight and relief of thousands of party members at their 50th national conference in Mafeking.

The former wife of President Mandela looked every bit the African queen in a richly embroidered blue kaftan dress as she marched towards the podium after being nominated for the deputy presidency by a woman delegate. She held her audience enthralled as she approached the microphone to announce whether she was going to take on the ANC's candidate, Jacob Zuma.

Nelson Mandela, who resigned as party president this week, looked glum and hung his head as she kept the tension high by allowing her nomination to be seconded from delegates on the floor.

Behind her were anxious members of the national executive who had worked tirelessly most of the previous night to persuade delégates, who still supported her after the revelations at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission this month which linked her to a string of murders, to abandon

An electoral official asked her if she would accept the nomination. "I do not wish to cause divisions in my party," said Mrs Mandela, who has

and accused its leadership of plotting to suppress her. "I have not been nominated by the structures, and therefore ask my president [Thabo Mbeki] for guidance," she

The tension mounted still further as he explained that a nomination it effoor was nothing to a 7th the party structures of the ANC.

Mrs Mandela drew a deep breath. To those comrades who nominated my name, I apologise. I have to decline." she murmured.

Wild cheers engulfed her words as she passed down the line of 30 senior members of the 60-member national executive, receiving hugs and handshakes from every one. Basing her appeal on an

image as a champion of the poor and a party outsider, she had won the only victory she could have - and avoided the humiliation of a probable defeat in a vote which would have permanently destroyed her political power base, which most analysts now believe is derived from a misperception that South Africa's poor adore her in spite of the revelations at the truth commission. Mr Mandela managed to avoid being embraced by his former wife. His successor. Mr Mbeki,

was yesterday elected unopoosed, as was Jacob Zuma as the party deputy president, and Kgalema Molanthe as secretary-general. The new ANC president told delegates that the "revolution was not



Mrs Mandela, who pulled out of the contest, embraces Jacob Zuma after his election as ANC deputy president

have to organise ourselves to ensure we achieve the things for which our movement was established ... the struggle

Only one slot remains to be contested now: the chairmanship, which will be decided on

continues," he said.

a secret ballot of the 3,400 delegates. Mr Mbeki's favoured candidate, Steve Tshwete, the Sports Minister, whom Mr Mbeki has used as a trouble-shooter, most recently to attack Mrs Mandela as a "charlatan" and "coward".

Mr Tshwete is to be challenged for the post by Patrick "Terror" Lekota, the former Premier of the Free State, who was dismissed from the post earlier this year by the party's Both are robust speakers

and popular in the party. Mr Mbeki was unable to force Mr Lekota to step down ahead of the elections, but backroom manipulation by Mr Mbeki's supporters has indicated that Mr Mbeki is likely to get his

Attempt to gag dissident

arrested here after a four-month hunt. (AFP)

Mafia 'godmother' held

Washington: The Voice of America complained of unprecedented political interference after the White House tried to block the broadcast of an interview with Wei Jingsheng, right, the Chinese dissident (Tom Rhodes writes). It was finally broadcast in China on the station's Mandarin-language television channel, but a segment was cut from a news service on Worldnet, another US govern-



Gay marriages rejected

Wellington: Marriage between homosexual couples is illegal, the Court of Appeal ruled to the dismay of a lesbian couple in New Zealand who brought the case. Lesbian couples vowed to keep fighting to get a Bill introduced in parliament to allow same-sex marriage. (AFP)

Seoul's thorn in the flesh stakes claim for presidency



FROM NICOL DEGLI INNOCENTI IN SECUL

SOUTH KOREANS could elect an opposition candidate as their Presint when they go to the polls today. In Kim Dae Jung's case, opposition definitely the word. The 71-year-old politician, who is running for the fourth time, has been a thorn in the side of the establishment for more than 40 years. In the days of military rule, he survived several attempts on his life, he has been kidnapped,

imprisoned, condemned to death and

finally exiled. Since his return in 1985, he has been planning his peaceful assumption of power.

Whoever wins the presidency, in a country where the office carries enormous powers, must face carrying out the reforms demanded by the International Monetary Fund in exchange for a record rescue package worth \$60 billion (£36 billion). The new President will also have to

deal with the ever-present threat from North Korea, where famine and mass starvation have made the Communist regime even less predictable. Lee Hoi

Chang, a former Chief Justice, is the ruling party candidate, though he has tried to distance himself from the past by changing its name from New Korea to Grand National Party. His lead in the opinion polls was slashed when it emerged that his two sons had tampered with their medical records to escape compulsory military service.

It is such a serious matter in South Korea, troubled by the threat of invasion by the North, that one son has to return from college in the United States to be examined and weighed in public, while the other felt a sudden urge to become a voluntary worker in a leper colony. The third candidate, Rhee In Je, 51,

gained notoriety when he left the ruling party to form his own movement, but he is not believed to command more than 15 per cent of the

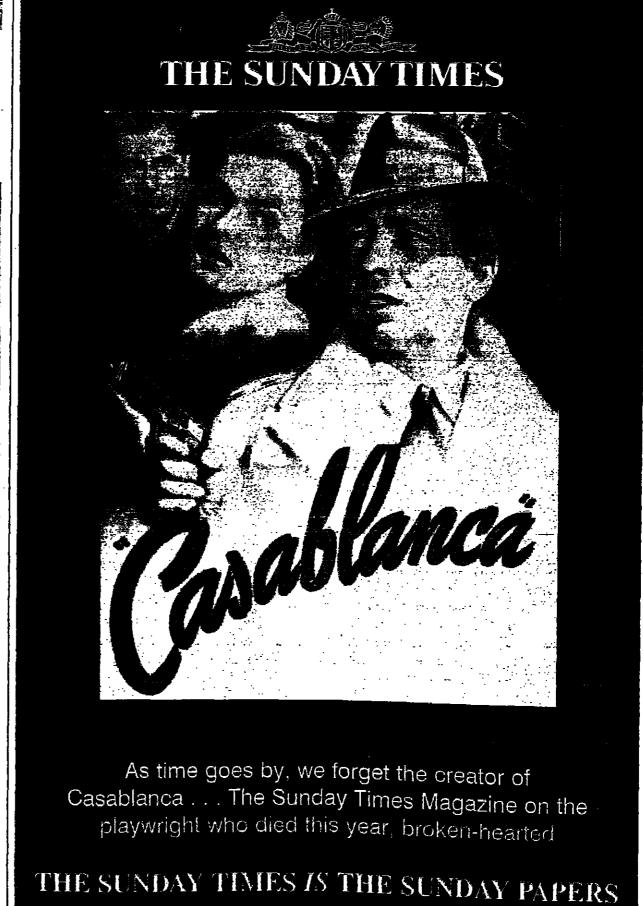
Mr Lee, who has been described as having the charisma of a granite statue, has tried hard to gain popularity, singing Christmas carols with his grandchildren on television. Mr Rhee has flaunted his youth and let-black hair, but has appeared rather wooden.

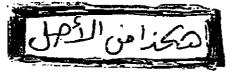
Great of the at Sainsbury's. Well this Christmas.



Christmas at Sainsbury's







ver C

Lawyer shot in row over Caribbean isle

between a Welsh expatriate couple and the Government of Amigua and Barbuda erupted in gunfire when shots were fired in the office of the brother of the Prime Minister.

Cyril "Taffy" Bufton and his wife Bonny are fighting a government eviction order to quit the tiny Caribbean island of Guiana, which sits barely 100 yards off the coast of Antigua, where they have lived alone for 32 years.

On Tuesday Mr Bufton, 73, allegedly shot his lawyer. Vere Bird Jr, 6l, the Prime Minister's brother and an MP, after he voted in favour of the forced removal of the couple by

No one witnessed the shooting but after the vote Mr Bufton confronted Mr Bird in his law firm offices, and allegedly shot him, wounding the lawyer in the jaw. Mr Bufton was also injured, suffering a gunshot wound to his

Lester Bird, the Prime Minister, went on television on Tuesday night and blamed the incident on Antigua's political opposition and two local newspapers. He accused them of inciting the Bultons and their supporters to dely the law.

The police have not brought charges so far, but Mr Bufton. in police custody in hospital, was expected yesterday to appear before a local

Both the injured men are



Hospital in St John's, the capital. Doctors say a bullet is lodged in Mr Bird's throat. and that he will probably be flown to Miami for treatment. Mr Bufton suffered splintered bones in the palm of his left

The Buftons managed Guiana for years, feeding the local deer and ducks, on behalf of its wealthy owner, a British lawyer. According to a former British diplomat who visited the couple, they lived a rustic life in a wooden house. Despite limited resources, the mechanically minded Mr Bufton kept their home running by fixing everything himself. They managed to exist by dint of his own hands and his mechanical skills. He was a great bodger. He liked to fix

things," the diplomat said. But those who know Mr Bufton well say he could be his own worst enemy. He could be difficult, even dictatorial at times, and did not welcome visitors to the island. "Taffy is a bit of an oddball," said

evict a Welsh

couple to build a resort has led to violence, writes

David Adams

Samuel Derrick, publisher of The Observer, an opposition newspaper in Antigua. He knows Mr Bufton well and described him as "a loner, a wilderness man". Mr Bufton would visit the mainland ahout once a week, hauling his jeep over the narrow stretch of water on a makeshift pontoon.

Bonny Bufton, on the other hand, seldom left the island. The few people who did visit the couple said she was always hospitable. "She's a lovely woman: very kind and loveable, and very loyal to Taffy," the diplomat said. When the British owner of

the island died some years ago, the fate of Guiana was left in dispute. The estate was sold but the Buftons clung to a fiveacre property.

The long-running dispute arose after the Government entered into a contract with a Malaysian developer to build a \$300 million (£184 million) resort on Guiana. Work on the resort, a pet project of the

Antigua's move to the mantle after his father, vere Bird Sr, retired in 1994, is expected to begin next month. The Prime Minister's broth-

er, a former government minister who had long been at odds with his brother, had stood up for the Welsh couple, even lobbying successfully to have Mr Bufton appointed as official game warden of the 300-acre island, complete with a small salary and a government vehicle.

asked the Buftons to leave the island, they resisted and hired Mr Bird in an attempt to claim squatters' rights. "It's unreal. One brother is trying to get him evicted, and the other brother is his lawyer," Mr Derrick said.
The Buftons have been sup-

But when the Government

ported in their campaign by local environmentalists fighting to stop the tourism project in order to protect the island's wildlife. Guiana is home to an important colony of 240 fallow deer, the national symbol of Antigua and Barbuda.

Tensions rose a few weeks ago when Mr Bufton ignored a police order suspending his gun licence, and ordered him to hand over firearms known to be in his possession. Mr Bird, who is also chair-

man of the ruling Antigua Labour Party, was due to appear in court today to try to prevent the eviction. The climax came during a parliamentary debate on Tuesday when Mr Bird spoke up for the Buftons, but voted for a law that authorises the police to evict the couple, by force if necessary. The law also offers the Buftons alternative accommodation, a government vehicle and a compensatory stipend of \$630 (£387) a month.
"It was fairly generous.
Taffy would have been fairly well looked after," said Mr Derrick. "What Taffy needs right now is some new legal representation. He has abused all the lawyers in town. We

one is interested." Mrs Bufton, reportedly, remains on Guiana, possibly unaware of the altercation between her husband and Mr Bird. But Mr Derrick said the Government was not taking any chances. "The Prime Minister said this woman is a

have talked to a number of

lawyers this morning and no



Bonny and Cyril Bufton are fighting their eviction; below, Vere Bird, who was shot

crackshot, so much so that the police are afraid to go over there. She has them at bay," Mr Bird Jr served in his

father's Cabinet but had to leave in 1990, when a commission labelled him a conspirator in a shipment of ten tons of Israeli arms via Antigua to the Medellin drug cartel's private army in Colombia. Two years earlier, he was tainted by charges of corruption in a \$11 million deal to renovate Antigua's airport. He has maintained his innocence. Guiana is a flat piece of

scrubland off the north coast of Antigua. Those who have visited it describe it as a pristine Caribbean paradise except for the areas where the wildlife, especially the European fallow deer, have devoured the vegetation.

The only main structure on the island is a large stone house, believed to have once belonged to a sugar plantation: this has since fallen into disrepair. The island's undeveloped natural environment stands in sharp contrast to the luxury tourist resorts that dot the beaches of Antigua.



Antigua dynasty keeps grip on power

THE Bird family has con-trolled the Government of Antigua and Barbuda for decades through their domina-tion of the governing party. At times they have seemed to run the islands as a fieldom.

The towering figure of 6ft

Sin Vere "Papa" Bird, 88, the island's first Prime Minister, founded one of the Caribbean's most pervasive dynasties. In 1994 he was succeeded as Prime Minister by his son, Lester, 59, brother of Vere Jr. the victim of Tuesday's alleged

Although the family's leading members have avoided direct criticism of corruption. their paternalistic style and strong pro-business attitudes have attracted criticism within the Caribbean. Yet the stability they have brought to the country has undoubtedly allowed them to attract lucrative offshore investment and the islands are now visited by tens of thousands of British tourists every year.

Seven years ago, Vere Bird Jr was recommended to be banned for life from holding government office after an inquiry found that officials had connived in the smuggling of Israeli arms ship-ments to the Medellin drugs cartel in Colombia.

Another report into the building of the V. C. Bird International airport in Antigua concluded that Mr Vere Jr, known in the island as "Runway" Bird, had acted "in a manner unbecoming a minister of government".

Further allegations of corruption have since been made involving the sale of Antiguan visas and passports to Hong Kong residents in the run-up to the handover of the colony to China. However, Lester Bird was cleared of any wrongdoing by an indepen-

dent inquiry. The United States-based human rights organisation Freedom House claimed that the February 1994 election was not free or fair, alleging that voting was not secret and that ineligible votes had been cast. Others criticised the lack of opposition access to the state-

Woman ahead in Guyana poll

The home of the Buftons on Guiana island, where they have lived for 32 years

Georgetown: Janet Jagan, a Chicago-born expatriate who made a career of fighting for Guyana's independence, held a close lead last night over the constition leader. Description leaders D opposition leader, Desmond Hoyte, in a presidential poll.

With 134,000, or 29 per cent, of votes counted, Mrs Jagan's People's Progressive Party had 68,000 votes. Ex-President

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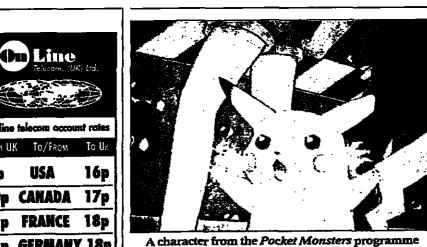
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country's majority Indo-Guyanese. The 68-year-old Mr Hoyte, however, said he was confident because his party.

was poised to become Guyana's first female leader. climaxing a long political journey she shared with her husband Cheddi, who died as traditionally strong among husband Cheddi, who die blacks and urban residents, President in March. (AP)



Japanese cartoon puts 700 in hospital

BY NICK NUTTALL

A JAPANESE television network yesterday called in doctors, psychologists and animation experts to find out why a cartoon triggered convulsions among hundreds of children nationwide.

Hironari Mori, programming division manager of TV Tokyo, said that more than 700 people, mainly children. were taken to hospital on Tuesday night after watching the programme, which was based on the Pocket Monsters video game.

The Japanese Home Affairs Ministry said that 208 people. aged from three upwards, including a man, 58, were still in hospital with epilepsy-type symptoms more than 24 hours after the broadcast.

Experts believe that the children, who reacted after an explosive scene in the cartoon was followed by five seconds of flashing lights, were photosensitive. Dr Ley Sander, a consultant neurologist at the National Hospital for Neurology in London and an adviser to the National Society for

Epilepsy, said that the chance of a television programme triggering similar seizures in Britain was almost zero. "Certain damaging, flash-

ing frequencies, are not allowed to be broadcast in this country. They may not have the same guidelines in Japan," Dr Sander said.

Earlier this year, the Inde-pendent Television Commission banned advertisements for Boots cosmetics and Marmite gravy cubes over concern that the intensity of strobe-like images might

trigger fits.
Jo Lawrence King, of the National Society for Epilepsy, said that up to 5 per cent of epileptics can have seizures brought on by flickering lights such as stroboscopes, flickering sunlight while driving through a forest or a flashing video game.

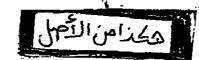
Other children with "low thresholds" may also be vanerable to fits if the flickering stimulus is powerful enough, even though they are not genuine epileptics.



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ristmas drinking is unlikely to be interupted by thoughts of whether wine is better for the drinker's heart and health than beer, but once again this is being debated by

It is now acknowledged by the majority of doctors that all alcoholic drinks, and even pure ethanol, inhibit platelet aggregation so that the platelets, the small particles in-volved in blood coagulation. do not stick together to form clots so readily in the blood vessels of the heart and brain.

A research paper written by doctors at the department of cardiology at the University of Wisconsin has recently been published in the journal of the American Chemical Society. These scientists have come down heavily on the side of red wine being superior to other alcoholic drinks and support their

case with laborato-The ry experiments as well as statistics advantage from studies in the community. Their of red wine research shown that a blood lies in the alcohol level produced by drinking way it is red wine need only be a tenth of that produced produced by other alcoholic drinks to

achieve the same The red wine, too, was also more efficient than other drinks in increasing the proportion of high-density lypoproteins, the good cardioprotective cholesterol, and reducing the amount of the low-density cholesterol. The advantage of red wine lies in the way it is produced, which includes using the grape skin. The grape skin contains antioxidants, phenolic flavinoids, which reduce the tendency of the blood to clot. Red wine, therefore, has two rather than one major cardio-protective

The flavinoids in red wine also help in the oxidisation, the process thereby helping to prevent them from furring up the coronary arteries. The greatest concentration of the health-giving flavinoids are found on grapes grown in slightly damp climates like Burgundy, where fungus can flourish. Red wine from these districts is therefore more

policemen; scanners and the Two Fat Ladies

health-giving than that from a sun-baked vineyard in the New World. Unfortunately, as clarets and burgundies mature some, but not all, of the flavinoid content is lost. No sooner had the paper

from Wisconsin been published than a Californian team produced equally detailed figures that although alcohol was undoubtedly beneficial, some of the apparent benefits of red wine could be the result of other factors in the wine drinker's life, and not directly as a chemical consequence.

They also concluded that both beer and wine, but not especially red wine, had advantages over other drinks. Those men who drank moderare amounts of beer, three half-pints a day, enjoyed a 30 per cent reduction in the risk of coronary heart disease: greater, they suggested, than that offered by red

or white wine. Conversely, the coronary arteries of wine drinkers were better protected than those who drank beer. A possible cause

of this discrepancy of the Californian results may be that the wines have been grown locally and do not have the same quantity of flavinoids in the skins as that drunk in

Two other research projects, while not diminishing the value of red wine, have promoted that of beer. AIM, a digest on research into alcohol, includes reports from the University of Munster in Germany and from the school of pharmacy at the University of Jerusalem. Both universities have studied the effect of moderate beer consumption on coronary arterial disease.

¬he Munster study showed that in Bavaria, a predominantly beer-drinking area, not only did the beer drinkers have a lower death rate for coronary heart disease but that the overall mortality was less. These changes applied to men and women.

Interestingly, the possible use of alcohol has not extended to China. The study of 1,824 men in Shanghai showed



A few drinks the morning after can be good for the stomach and duodenum because the organism Helicobacter pylori, which causes peptic ulcers, is vulnerable to alcohol

those who drank up to two drinks a day had a 19 per cent reduction in the overall deathrate from cancers and coronary heart disease. Those who drank up to the British guideline of four drinks a day reduced the deathrate by 36 per cent, but drinking any more than this increased the deathrate for strokes and some cancers. In Shanghai, the advantages were experienced whatever the drink the men

Although it may not seem like it, sometimes on the morning afterwards a few drinks can be good for the stomach and duodenum. The small organism Helicobacter pylori, which causes peptic ulcers, is vulnerable to alcohol and, in particular, red wine. Within 15 minutes of drinking red wine, the number of Helicobacter pylori organisms starts shrinking. This may account for the findings of a large Danish study, which shows that a moderate intake of wine and spirits reduces the likelihood of peptic ulceration.

Cigars lead to frank diagnosis

present for Frank, my 64-yearold bachelor brother, is always a problem. This year nobody will give him cigars.

Instead, he will be presented with a suitably wrapped Nicorette inhaler. the latest device, obtainable without prescription, to help people to stop

Frank, who has been smoking and inhaling more than 20 cigars a day for at least 40 years, is not so hoarse that any protests about his change in gift is unlikely to be heard.

Every case of hoarseness should be investigated if it is unexplained and lasts for more than two or three weeks. Frank, however, has been hoarse for 20 years, but a lifetime in a medical family has given him some cynicism about doctors, and he has previously rejected all suggestions for investigations.

Finally, Frank's voice became so

in the larynx, but the vocal cords were working well.

The tumour, which had presumably been growing since his hoarseness began, was removed and examined by a pathologist. Fortunately, it was not as unpleasant as it looked and was a benigo fibroma.

However, the cords, which looked to be suffering from no more than chronic irritation resulting from being perpetually bathed in cigar smoke, showed widespread pre-malignant changes.

The most important treatment is to stop smoking, in which case there is a chance that the cells of the cords will return to normal. Such is my brother's addiction to cigars that he cannot, and has only managed to reduce his intake to eight or ten a

The carcinogenic effect of tobacco affected that he capitulated. The smoke on the larynx is often inwhen drinking by itself may not be detrimental. This, however, is not my brother's problem. He is such a slight social drinker that it is sometimes necessary to blow the dust from his

icorette inhalers may work in cases where nicotine patches, chewing gum or nasal spray have failed, as they provide many of the ritualistic features of smoking, the loss of which contributes to the difficulty that people find in giving up.

Ex-smokers miss opening the packet, the hand to mouth movements many hundreds of times a day, and the soothing dummy effect of a cigarette between the lips. The Niconette inhaler, which retains these rituals, looks like a white cigarette holder.

A cartridge containing nicotine fits

inding a suitable Christmas surgeon looked down his throat and creased by drinking. Alcohol and into it and as the smoker draws on present for Frank, my 64-year- saw an unpleasant-looking tumour tobacco can be a lethal combination, the mouthpiece it delivers into the the mouthpiece it delivers into the mouth about a third of the amount of nicotine normally found in a cigarette. Each time a smoker craves a cigarette he takes a pull on the holder, and the craving is relieved. People using the inhaler should not use more than 12 cartridges a day and after eight weeks it is hoped that the craving, and the smoking rou-tine, would have gone, without any withdrawai symptoms.

Over the next two weeks the cartridge intake is halved, and then tailed off completely during the

following formight. Only 5 per cent of those people who are strongly addicted to tobacco are able to give up and depend on will power alone. The Nicorette inhaler doubles this figure and is particularly useful for those who like the ritual of smoking and who have been smoking fewer than 20 cigarettes a



Rough ride for backs

SLEEPING policemen, the ridges installed across roads to slow down urban traffic, inevitably produce a rough ride for anyone travelling in a

But now Talk Back, the magazine of the National Back Pain Association, has some advice about how drivers may reduce this jolting in order to help passengers with spinal diseases. Crossing the bumps can cause these people appreciable pain, which may persist for hours after the journey has ended.

In the article, Dr A.K. Clarke writes that this joiting can be lessened if drivers change their technique when approaching the sleeping policeman. Most people brake just before the bump, pass slowly over it, then accelerate. Braking in this way has the effect of bringing the front of the vehicle down, thereby increasing the effect of the jolt

on those inside the car. Dr Clarke suggests that the correct way is to brake some distance from the sleeping policeman and then to accelerate just as the car starts to go over the bump. Accelerating at this time lifts the front of the car. reduces the jolt, and thereby eases the pressure on the spine.



A sleeping policeman can cause a nasty jolt to the spine

Fat and Alzheimer's

ARE the Two Fat Ladies with their delicious menus going to reduce us to dementia in old age? Their diet may have done their own grey cells little harm, but it seems that high blood cholesterol may be a factor in Alzheimer's disease. As alcohol reduces the likelihood of Alzheimer's, perhaps the wine they drink compensates for the high fat content.

Although there is a strong genetic link, environmental factors also seem to be of importance. Professor Brian Austen, of St George's Hospital, London, has demonstrated that a raised blood cholesterol may be a factor in the cause of some cases of Alzheimer's. "By adopting lifestyles known to lead to a lowering of blood cholesterol, such as regular exercise, an appropriate diet and by following outdoor pursuits, it is possible that we may be able to protect ourselves against the disease ." he says,

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Scanners keep getting better

DORSET boasts a new county hospital in Dorchester, which serves north and west Dorset. But unfortunately it does not have an MRI scanner. When brains and spinal cords have to be visualised, abdomens checked for malignant glands, sinuses inspected, and joints examined without surgery, patients have to take a 100mile round trip. But Dorset people are not dismayed by the absence of a scanner. Instead they have accepted the challenge and are raising funds to pay for one.

The MRI scanner has made such a difference to medicine that it is hard to remember and perhaps better forgotten - how inaccurate many diag-

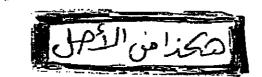
noses were before it became available

Scanners continue to improve. The London Clinic, for instance, has recently installed a new model which gives 50 per cent greater strength. As well as doing routine work, it will enable doctors to obtain much better views of the gall bladder and pancreas as well as excellent images of the breast, so that ductal tumours

may be detected. The new scanner is no quieter than the old one and probably no less claustrophobic, but it should be remembered that most patients do not find the hammering noise frightening and do not suffer from claustrophobia.

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We can't go on killing each other'

The brutal murder of an Israeli soldier by Hamas terrorists led his mother to embark on a mission of peace. Interview by Michael Freedland

man was 19, an Israeli soldier with the kind of bright smile that made people like him, when he went home for a week's leave in 1994. On October 8, the Sabbath, the army rang, telling him to attend a one-day course on operating a special tank.

I'll be home on Sunday night," he told his mother as he left for a northern army base. Those were his last words to her. Nachshon was kidnapped by Hamas terrorists and after five days in which he was paraded on television pleading for his life, he was killed as Israeli commAndos attacked the house where he was being held.

We were devastated," says Esther Wachsman. She is a composed woman and at first glance does not seem like the typical Jewish mother, full of noisy emotion for her family. She is, of course, it is just that she separates her private grief from her public crusade. During the past three years she has travelled the world, pleading for Arabs and Jews to forge a new understanding which, she hopes, will end the brutality that led to the murder of the third of her seven sons. "We can't go on killing

each other," she says. A small, warm and bespectacled woman of 49, she still has a distinct New York accent (although it is 27 years since she lived in America). She does not wear make-up and always

achshon Wachs- wears a hat. She looks and sounds like a thousand other Orthodox Jewish women who believe they must hold on to land no matter what the cost in human lives. The stark difference in her perspective emerges only as she describes the last days of Nachshon's life and explains the mission that

> 'He was killed at the very hour the ultimatum expired'

is taking her to speaking engagements with Jewish and

non-Jewish organisations. Nachshon was hitch-hiking when a group of bearded men wearing skullcaps offered him a lift. Assuming them to be Orthodox Jews, he accepted. He was taken to a secret destination which, his family later discovered, was just ten minutes away from their home in Ramot, on the hills surrounding Jerusalem.

"My sons never come home without calling their mother." says Mrs Wachsman. "We knew that if he did not call, he could not call. When he did not arrive on Sunday night we notified the army. We traced

place where he was seen. On Tuesday afternoon, Israel television came to our home with that infamous video. I felt relief that my son was alive; I believed we would save him."

There were many reasons why Nachshon was a catch for the terrorists. He was intensely religious yet he had quali-fied for the crack Golani Brigade. At 5ft 8in and 912 stone, he was the smallest and lightest man in the force, a fact that would have disqualified him had he not shown such exceptional dedication and aptitude.

Hamas issued an ultimaturn, demanding the release of its spiritual leader, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin (freed this year by the Prime Minister, Binyamin Netanyahu). Mrs Wachsman appealed to the Government of the then Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, to negotiate with the captors. He refused. She appealed to the US Government, and Warren Christopher, then Secretary of State, contacted Yassir Arafat, who promised the Wachsmans that if Nachshon was in Gaza, he would find him and return him safely. The Wachsmans felt optimistic.

ut he was not in Gaza On October 14 Israeli commandos raided the house where their intelligence had revealed he was being held. 'Nachshon and the commander of the rescue team — just a few months older than him were killed at the very hour of the ultimatum's expiry." says his mother.

This week saw the official opening of the Nachshon Wachsman Centre for Toler-Jerusalem to hold lectures for people on both sides of the conflict. The inaugural cere mony was attended by Mr Netanyahu and the opposition leader, Ehud Barak. Mrs Wachsman has already organised forums between Jews, Christians and Muslims designed to teach them about each other's way of life.

My son was always the peacemaker, in the family and the army," says his mother. He felt the same about the fight between Israel and the



Nachshon held by Hamas

his legacy. It is important to try to educate people in peace, if not in love and triendship." In this spirit Nachshon's father, Yehuda, met Sheikh Yassin Bader, father of the man who killed Nachshon. They issued a joint statement saying that the death penalty should be enforced for murders by terrorists.

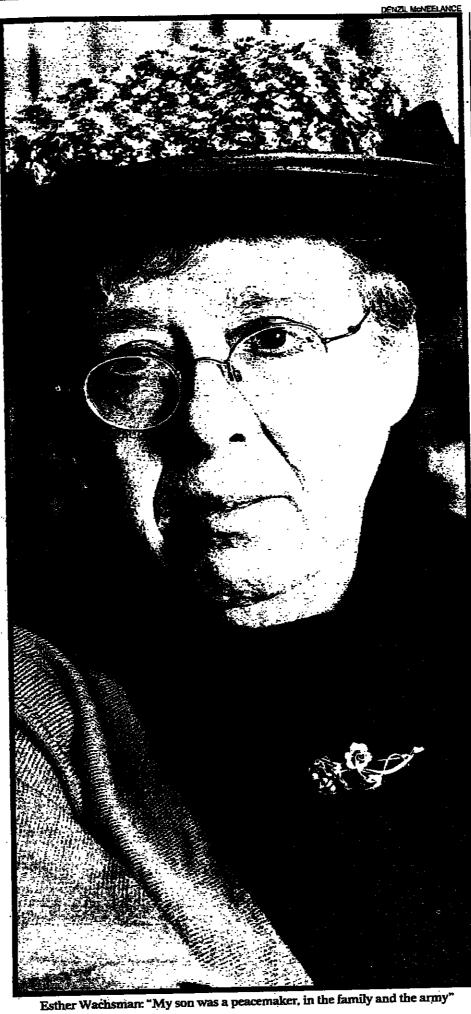
My husband thought he

had found a Palestinian partner and that Palestinian youth could become involved in working for peace. Then Hamas said it would kill Sheikh Bader and it all came to an end.
"I would love to live in a

better world. I feel much more than bitterness to the animals who kidnapped my son." She looks exhausted. In

addition to her ceaseless quest to keep the public memory of her son alive, she is mother to a large family. Does she treasure her remaining six sons all the more? "Oh no," normal love for them.

Nachshon had not yet worked out his life. He was a good student, a popular boy. Everybody loved him for his good nature, his eternal smile, compassionate personality. His whole future was ahead of him. He could have done and been anything. Instead we have a tombstone on



The end of the affair

Should you return the diamonds when romance dies, asks Grace Bradberry

he wit Cyril Connolly Beers slogan - How else can was quite right when he remarked: "A lot of pain and nuisance might be avoided if the rich would only appreciate the point where love becomes money."

John Lattanzio, 49, a Wall

Street trader and multimillionaire, is counting the cost of failing to make that distinction. Having loved and lost not only lnes Misan, a twentysomething Latvian model, but also the \$500,000 of jewellery he gave her, he has now gone to law in an attempt to heal if not the emotional, then the financial wounds.

His case is that Miss Misan had promised to marry him. and these are therefore engagement presents. She in-

sists that there was no such deal. Diamonds are forever, particularly when they come from Cartier (a \$147,220 necklace), from Harry Winston (a \$289.275 plati-Arpels (a \$20,026

ring). Miss Misan has expressed horror and repugnance. A graduate of the Zsa Zsa Gabor school of dating — "I never hated a man enough to give him diamonds back" — Miss Misan said: This is an insult for him to ask me for the jewellery back. It's like giving a child a candy and ripping it out of his mouth once he's sucking it . . . I get attached to gifts, especially diamonds. I'm a beautiful woman."

Her attachment to Mr Lattanzio proved weaker, and there must be material girls everywhere who sympathise with her predicament. The silver screen of one's romantic imagination can become brutally split. On one side a Disney world of diamonds. cars and Manolo Blahnik shoes, on the other a film noir feature in which Balding Barry expects quality time in return. If only one could turn off the second projector and enjoy the main movie without distraction.

True, there are few men o could match the generos-

a month's salary last a lifetime? - does not apply in this case. A month of Mr Lattanzio's salary could quite easily last a lifetime converted into nothing more than Post Office Savings Certificates.

Nevertheless, this is a tale of relevance to us all. Must the dispatch of a boyfriend mean the tearful exchange of Gucci dress for Black & Decker Workmate, of cashmere sweater for a boxed set of Terry Pratchett novels? Is there a let-out clause for perishables? And what about such "non-returnables" as La

Where gifts of roughly equal value have been exchanged, there need, of

course, be no dilemma. A Tiffany diamond solitaire necklace exchanged for an Aramis umbrella gives more pause for thought.

Thankfully there is no need to

Debrett's New Guide to Etiquette and Modern Manners. "On the whole in life, we can't give things and then take them away." he says. "It's good manners for a woman to return the engagement ring if her marriage is called off because it's a symbolic present. But if a woman divorces she keeps the ring unless it's a family heirloom. In general, gifts are the woman's to keep.

By these rules, Mr Lat-tanzio can only reason-ably expect to recoup the engagement ring (if that's what it was) and then only at Miss Misan's discretion (should she have any).

While Miss Misan may at first appear the vulgarian of the tale, it is in fact the ageing trader who has committed the faur pas. "The thing about this man is he lives in a world where only money talks," says Mr Morgan. "In relationships it's quite wrong to say that everybody has their price. He's given her the presents





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Let charity begin with charities

Frank Prochaska on the vital

role of the voluntary sector

n an article on this page last week, Matthew Parris depicted charities as "a state within the State", so raising an issue that gues to the heart of our social democracy. He suggests that by claiming tax exemptions, charities are denying the Treasury - "the greatest charity of all" money essential to the maintenance of the welfare state. Shall we assume that he will lead the way this Christmas by making a voluntary donation to the Inland Reve-

There is not much doubt that the law on charities is a conceptual and administrative mess". And it is also true that many of them have lost touch with traditions of personal service and volunteering. But denying tax exemptions to all charitable institutions would mean that many would close, and others would never emerge.

Where is the advantage in this to the Treasury? Removing charitable status might produce modest gains in government revenue, but at the expense of pluralism and choice in social provision. And who is to say that civil servants would use the savings more efficiently? The Government itself, now the largest single contributor to charity, now accepts that voluntary institutions can be more efficient than state bureaucracies.

The issue is not that the voluntary sector has become a state within the State, but that so many charities have become agencies of the State. Voluntary activity may be defined as the antithesis of collective or statutory authority. Its independence is its lifeblood. With so much of their money coming from government sources, many charities today lack genuine freedom of action. Many others, of course, receive nothing from the State and pursue issues of little interest to politicians. Indeed, they are so varied that they can hardly be called a coherent sector at all. To all but tidy-minded collectivists, this creative chaos is one of the nation's great strengths. Those who call for a redefinition of charitable purposes, or the removal of tax should keep this in mind. The elimination of charitable status would be a further stage in the perfection of the state monolith.

Charity makes its greatest contribution to national wellbeing by its very diversity and rivalry, by its love of the ad hoc remedy and its seemingly inefficient muddle. It is invaluable not simply because it provides goods or services but because if offers an altruistic, non-compulsory alternative to the State's materialistic conception of public need. It is a delusion to expect altruism to come from a Treasurydriven Government. Ask today's single parents.

To the Victorians, the idea that individuals could simply sit back, pay their taxes and leave the removal of social inequalities to government officials was anathema. They believed that the resulting bureaucracy could not satisfy local needs and aspirations. Moreover, the intermediary institutions of civil society acted as a safeguard against overbearing officialdom. And they could achieve their purposes without being enmeshed

After the Second World War, citizens became predominantly consumers of government, rather than participants in it. To put it another way, indirect, representative de mocracy, expressed through Cabinet government, reigned supreme in social policy over the spontaneous pluralism of local, civic institutions. The welfare state dwarfed the funds available to charities, brought universal benefits and tackled social problems in a comprehensive way. As a result of the State's predominance, voluntary institutions settled into a decent anonymity and accepted their reduced status. Many of them disappeared or, tellingly, became adjuncts of state departments.

This national consensus on welfare, which grew out of the particular character of the wartime experience, has now largely collapsed. Charities have helped to fill the gaps. Meanwhile state agencies such as NHS hospitals, have taken on quasi-charitable status. Given the spiralling costs provision. Britain has reached a curious stage in the evolution of social policy. where the Government wants more from charitable institutions, while charities want more from the Government.

In this ambiguous welfareworld, it has become necessary to use the word 'independent' before the name of a non-governmental charity, for it is no longer obvious that a charitable institution is not a government body. To believe that there are two distinct sectors, the state sector paid for by taxation, and the voluntary sector, financed by a variety of means, is rather fanciful. The two sectors have become entangled. Today, charitable donations to NHS hospitals such as Great Ormond Street are providing services which may be seen as the responsibility of the State.

iven the blurring of boundaries between the State and voluntary institutions, the most pressing issue is one identified on the Future of the Voluntary Sector: "What activities still properly belong within the public sector and should not be performed elsewhere?" It is an issue that Tony Blair has already addressed. Having cast aside Labour's collectivist dogma, he declared in 1994 that the voluntary sector was "not an optional extra but a vital part of our economy". More recently. Peter Mandelson called for a compact between Government and charities and emphasised that Labour saw itself as an enabler of welfare rather than

a provider". Where this leaves the moving frontier of social provision is unclear. But it seems unlikely that tax exemptions for charitable bodies will be withdrawn. Who in new Labour believes that the Treasury is "the greatest charity of all"?

The author is a Visiting Fellow, All Souls College, Oxford, and the author of The Voluntary Impulse (1988).



"Mark my footsteps, good my page, Tread thou in them boldly; Thou shalt find the winter's rage Freeze thy blood less coldly."

(Good King Wenceslas)

Marianne in trousers

The second edition of the Oxford Dictionary of Quo-tations was first published in 1953; it is probably still the best. The editors included very few quotations from the leading Nazis, but were unable to resist Goering's two most characteristic jokes: "Guns will make us powerful; butter will only make us fat," and: "When I hear anyone talk of Culture, I reach for my revolver." The first was indeed Goering's own joke, which he made in a radio broadcast in the summer of 1936. However, a corrigendum in the revised 1959 edition of the dictionary traces the other epigram to an earlier "Wenn ich Kultur höre...

entsichere ich meinen Browning," turns out to be a line from Schlageter. the 1934 play by the Nazi dramatist Hanns Johst. It is, appropriately enough, spoken by a stormtrooper. Undoubtedly the original is the better form: "Browning" has greater precision than "revolver", and perhaps makes an ironic reference to Robert Browning, the English poet, which might even have been intended by Johst, though it would have meant little to Goering. "Entsichere" is also a good word; it means "release the safety catch" and it's certainly sharpepigram suits Goering's personality; it does not however apply to the Nazi Party, for there never was a party which did more to exploit culture as the route to power.

Adolf Hitler was not the first to discover the use of cultural propaganda in politics. That goes back to the earliest human societies, to the prehistory of Egypt and China, to the Roman Empire, and particularly to Augustus and Nero. Indeed Nero's last words, "Qualis artifex pereo", "what an artist dies" could well have been Hitler's. For Hitler the political hattle was more cultural than pragmatic. He did not seek to convince the German electorate by rational argument; there are very few statistics in his speeches; he asked them to identify emotionally with his concept of German historic greatness, and to regard the Jewish and Bolshevik cultures as enemies.

Germany itself is united by language but has always been divided by culture. Northwest Germany, the Hamburg region, has connections with Britain to the west. The Netherlands to the south and Scandinavia to the north. The people are Protestant, liberal and rather serious-

In an expanded Europe of historic cultural groupings, France is in a unique

position to assert her dominance

minded, in many ways among the

best people on earth. The contrast between northwest Germany and Bavaria is between the Nordic and Protestant and the Catholic and Central European. It was an historical accident that Bavaria did not come to be part of a south central European state with Vienna and Munich as twin capital cities. Prussia and Bismarck were not preordained to win the war of 1866 in which they defeated Bavaria and Austria. After 1870, when his victory over France allowed him to complete the unification of Germany, Bismarck began

the Kulturkampf, to maintain the dominance of Prussia. Protestantism and the imperial monarchy. If you look up Germany in Whit-1900, you find it

sian Empire". That is, indeed, what Bismarck's Germany was.

In 1997 British politics has become predominantly cultural, rather than pragmatic. The May election was as much an aesthetic as a political rejection of the Conservatives. The Major Government left behind the most favourable economic conditions that have greeted any incoming Government since the war; if elections were simply concerned with the pocketbook, John Major might still be in Downing Street. New Labour struck the mood of the time. Tony Blair spent his leisure at Oxford as the lead singer of a pop group; aspiring Conservatives, including both Kenneth Clarke and William Hague, were more likely to have spent their university days arguing their way to the presidency of the Union. The election of 1997 was more like a gig than a debate. Youth, modernity, informality were the themes which won the greatest

election victory in 90 years. The death of Diana, Princess of Wales, was followed by a unique explosion of national grief, something no one would have foreseen. which even now is hard to remember

in its full intensity. She represented some of the same themes as the Blair election victory, the freshness, the desire to modernise old institutions, the frustration the young feel against the old guard. Her life was also perceived as much more compassionate than new Labour itself.

Tony Blair's cultural image does not appeal only to people in Britain, where he remains extremely popular though his Government has had some bad weeks. In this week's opinion poll in Le Monde 82 per cent of French people say that they take a "good" or "fairly good" view of Tony

Blair, whereas only ll per cent of the British take a simi-lar view of Lionel Jospin. I doubt if this is an example of British chauvinism. Jospin is the French equivalent of old

countries old-fashioned socialism looks obsolete.

There are six big European countries in the European Union we are trying to put together: Germany, France, Britain, Italy, Spain and eventually Poland. In terms of geography. France, Italy and Spain are Mediterranean countries, whereas Germany, Britain and Poland are Atlantic, North Sea or Baltic. In terms of religion, France, Italy, Spain, Poland and south Germany are all Roman Catholic; Britain and north Germany are Protestant. In terms of recent history, Germany was defeated in 1918 and 1945, France in 1940. Italy withdrew from the Second World War, Spain experienced the catastrophe of the civil war, Poland was occupied by Germany in 1939 and by the Soviet Union after 1945. Britain was victorious in 1918 and 1945, both times depending on the United States, but since 1945 Britain has dissolved the greatest of the modern world empires.

Britain and France have great cultural self-confidence. In the Le Monde poll, 70 per cent of the British admired the French quality of savoir vivre. Britain has a unique literature,

umentary about human rights for

Radio 4's Analysis. After the pro-

gramme was broadcast, the BBC

received a complaint from the Lord Chancellor that Lord Woolf, Mas-

ter of the Rolls, had received more

air time. Irvine discovered the out-

rage after his secretary obtained a

transcript of the show and counted

the words. If only he had talked in

the interview about his wallpaper.

ALASTAIR CAMPBELL, Man

of Power (volume 27). Ministers

to subterfuge by arranging lunch through their constituency offices. When they head for the restau-

rant, they leave their ministerial

thanks to Shakespeare; take him away and the corpus of English literature would still be closely comparable to the French. Germany has Goethe, the philosophers and music: Italy has Rome and the Renaissance. European culture has this great historic wealth, but the individual national cultures remain very different. Britain is significantly different from the continental nations in our closeness to the United States, the length of our democratic tradition and the strength of our individual-ism. Britain and Ireland are pulled towards American culture by the English language: French, Italian and Spanish are all Latin-based

If one looks at Europe's postwar history from a narrowly economic and political point of view, one may be surprised by the way the French have so often determined policy. German war guilt, and the memory of the Holocaust, have certainly made the Germans reluctant to flaunt their industrial power, but that is waning with the new generation. When one looks at the cultural balance, France's strength becomes less surprising. In population, the 15 EU countries divide into four groups.

The Latin, Roman Catholic or France, Italy, Spain, Greece and Portugal, with a combined population of 175 million. The Germanspeaking group consists of Germany. Austria and Luxembourg and less closely of The Netherlands and part of Belgium; their combined population is 115 million. The English language group consists of the United Kingdom and Ireland, with a population of just over 60 million. veden, Denmark and Finland make up a small Scandinavian group with a population of 20 million.

nside these groups there are big cultural variations, but France is the strongest power in the largest cultural group. The addition of nearly 40 million Catholic Poles, historically suspicious of Germany, can only strengthen French leadership. Germany has neither sought nor received a British alliance to balance the Nordic against the Latin group. There is a Kulturkampf inside the European Union, and France is the best-placed nation. The Franco-German alliance is a marriage in which Marianne may lack the physical strength, but still wears the cultural trousers.

From local hero to outcast

Magnus Linklater

on the tragedy of Mohammed Sarwar

ohammed Sarwar was a great catch for the Labour Party. He was Britain's first Muslim MP, a self-made millionaire, a man to break the mould of old Labour politics, and a symbol of racial tolerance for the new party. The National Executive backed him in a grim fight for the newly created Govan seat against one of its own loyalists, and defended him against charges of vote-rigging in the selec-tion procedure. His political contacts in Pakistan were considered an asset, and his long stint as a Glasgow councillor gave him grassroots credibility. All in all, he seemed the ideal

MP for new Labour. But what looked good on paper failed to measure up on the streets of Glasgow, and Mr Sarwar's arrest and appearance in court yesterday on charges of electoral fraud brings to an end a strange and embarrassing episode from which the party emerges with its image badly damaged. It now regards its sometime favourite son as a pariah, and makes no secret of its wish to be rid of him. Mr Sarwar will face intense pressure to resign so that Govan can find a replacement MP. His Labour membership has been suspended and he has been deprived of the right to represent the party at any level. Rarely can a fall from political grace

have been so complete and so brutal.

But if the party believes it can simply wash its hands of this affair, it will have to think again. Mr Sarwar is entitled to feel more than aggricved over the way he has been so brusquely abandoned, while elsewhere - in Paisley and on Glasgow City Council - allegations of voterigging and misconduct go unpunished by anything more than an interminable inquiry. Two other MPs have been suspended (one since reinstated); six councillors are still being investigated; charges that pub-lic funds in Paisley have been misappropriated are still unresolved; the party executive seems incapable of clearing out the corrupting elements that continue to stille politics in

the West of Scotland. The vote-rigging charges against Mr Sarwar are not exactly unfamiliar in the Glasgow area. Trade union lists have regularly been used to rustle up names with which to swing the vote behind some local candidate: it is just one of the charges being investigated in Paisley. In Mr Sarwar's case the allegations involve a Pakistani, rather than a trade union, network. Until the evidence is heard at his trial we cannot know the truth, but he is at least entitled to ask why the party has failed to punish finds, in his case, so unacceptable.

I saw a certain amount of Mr Sarwar both before his selection and during his election campaign. He is not an easy man - prickly, arrogant, intensely ambitious. There is no doubting his achievements as a businessman, starting out selling eggs from door to door and ending with a chain of cash-and-carry warehouses which have made him a wealthy man. Immensely hard-working and committed to the Labour cause, he commands loyalty from a tight-knit group of Pakistani supporters, as well as business associates whom he has helped on the way up.

But despite his long service on the council, he struck me as lacking political experience, short-sighted about his tactics, and prone to paranoia. Some of his party aides seemed to verge on the maverick. His was a campaign that clearly needed close monitoring and support from party headquarters.

It was not as if they were ignorant about the problem. Allegations concerning the Govan party lists had already led to a ferocious row at the time of Mr Sarwar's selection as candidate, with the National Executive called in to investigate and adjudicate. Yet the party continued to speak of him as a standard-hearer for the Muslim community, and to predict that he would win by a handsome majority. In the event, his was one of the closest of the Glasgow votes, with the SNP candidate coming within 2,000 votes of victory.

lmost before the dust had settled, new allegations began A settled, new allegations began to circulate, and it was at this point that the party began to distance itself rapidly from this problematic new MP. Whatever is eventually proved against him, the party will have to answer for its failure to detect and deal with a problem it knew existed before it turned into a crisis. It is not only Labour that has been damaged. The Muslim community, which had been led to expect so much, feels itself humiliated.

This week sees the publication of the Scotland Bill. Running through the whole debate will be a question that is increasingly exercising the country: who will be running the new Scotland? Constant reassurances that "a new type of MP" will emerge to ensure that the parliament is not taken over by the old party hegemony are beginning to sound a little thin. There is, instead, every sign that some familiar old names will be moving effortlessly on to the party lists, which are now being drawn up. If Labour is to stop this happening, it will have to exercise rather more control than it has been capable of in the past.

Golden silence

WE have wondered here why Ian Hargreaves, the garrulous Editor of the New Statesman (proprietor: Geoffrey Robinson) has been strangely muted about the Robinson affair. Now we have discovered why. The company at the heart of the hoc-hah, Stenbell, pays Hargreaves's salary. My eye is drawn to a payment of more than £500,000 recently made by the New Statesman to Stenbell, which made complex transactions with an offshore trust on behalf of Robinson. Hargreaves offers this explanation:

"Although what I do every day. and every week, is go into the Statesman's offices, I am technically employed by Stenbell. So the Statesman has to pay them for the services of myself and my staff." Big money, this, for an editor and staff of a small magazine. Impressive that it can raise the cash. It has come a long way since its founda-tion in 1913 by Sidney and Beatrice Webb "to make the thinking person socialistic". In 1958 its board constituted itself a "self-perpetuating trust" as the best way "to ensure that the ideals and policies of the journal shall be kept free from outside interests".

But since Robinson, now Paymaster General, took over last year it has lost its Red fever: dreary Marxist theories of ownership have been replaced by bracing eulogies on company profits.

● ALLEGEDLY bribing their in-

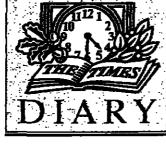


Hargreaves, Robinson

done little to enhance the reputation of foreign cadets at Sandhurst. They are now referred to by their British peers as FLOPS: foreign lazy overseas plonkers.

Leak soup

A CASE for Poiror. The strange vanishing of David Clark's career as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster is the subject of a double instructors for better pass marks has vestigation by Robin Mountfield,



Buster General. So exhaustive have the researches become that he is now called by colleagues after the fictional Belgian detective.

Mountfield is particularly keen to discover how Clark's White Paper on freedom of information and his weakness for travelling first class were leaked - one on the Today programme, the other in this column. Frankly, I think Mr Clark should be thankful that we spared his dignity by not detailing the difficulties he suffered trying to gain access to the VIP lounge at Heathrow on a recent trip.

 THOSE fading songbirds the Spice Girls will land on MPs desks today, thanks to the House Magazine. Its Christmas card to Members depicts Westminster Spice: Tony Blair as Ginger, William Hague as Baby and Paddy

Ashdown as Sporty, with the Lord Chancellor as Posh and Speaker Betty Boothroyd as, er, Scary complete with bare midriff and a portcullis-shaped jewel in her navel. Betty will love it.

My word!

AFTER the Lord Chancellor confirmed my important story that he has an official Orange Peeler, another curiosity about the Lord Irvine of Lairg has come to my attention. The usually media-shy Irvine agreed to take part in a doc-



"Here he comes- start

are advised to seek permission from Tony Blair's press attaché before accepting an invitation to sup with the enemy (journalists). Naughty ministers have resorted

cars behind and catch the bus, ensuring that Whitehall's best intelligence network - government chauffeurs - are out of the loop. Lot's strife

SOTHEBY's is having a bad week. After yesterday's wrangle about selling smuggled art, I can now disclose that the auction house has sold a box of documents unaware that it contained rare correspondence from members of the Shelley gang. Lot 185 was



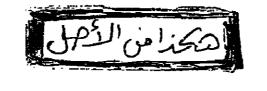
Shelley shock: Mary, Byron

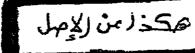
described as little more than a collection of papers with an estimate of just £2,500 to £3,500.

But canny dealers inspected the box before the auction and discovered some gems: an 1840s letter from Mary Shelley, who wrote Frankenstein, imploring a biographer not to write an exposé about her late husband Percy. There were also letters between Claire Clairmont — mother of Allegra, Lord Byron's daughter — and E.J. Trelawney. The lot sold for £14,375. A big hammer at Sotheby's ex-

plained that it was "physically impossible to list everything". At the same auction, the Warwick "Shakespeare" deed, much hyped by the auction house, was withdrawn because it failed to reach the reserve of £250,000 to £300,000.

JASPER GERARD







OUR ISLAND STORY

History has become a battlefield for Britishness

"It is time to rediscover the meaning of being view that "aristocratic values were a British; to find out who we are through what we have been." Thus Simon Schama, the most distinguished British historian of his generation, justified this week the BBC's millennium Television History of Britain which he is to write and present.

ers.

ints

History, like any discipline, does not necessarily need any justification other than the pursuit of knowledge for its own sake. Liberal learning is a good in itself. Inescapably, however, it is a tool for making sense of the present. Equally inescapably, that tool becomes a weapon in the hands of factions battling to define the nation's identity. George Orwell, writing nearly 50 years ago, recognised that he who controlled the past, controlled the future. In the current Battle of Britishness it is the past which is the most fiercely contested terrain.

Another distinguished British historian, Jonathan Clark, who like Simon Schama is currently teaching in America, has produced a dense but illuminating guide to the battlefield in an essay for the Historical Journal. Although its audience, and language, are academic, its insights are of universal interest. Dr Clark takes as his starting point the declining interest in British history in the US and blames compatriots who have provided American, and indeed British, readers with "inadequate versions of British history". Their inadequacies, however, have consequences far beyond the New World's ivory towers.

Dr Clark explains how a particular approach to British history which seeks to deconstruct British identity and render it an "invention" and the product of "imagination", serves a specific ideological purpose. Historians such as Eric Hobsbawm and Linda Colley as well as David Cannadine have, he argues, tried to explain British identity in terms which call for a radical renovation of native traditions. These historians have tried to explain how the furniture with which we have all grown up no longer fits our circumstances.

Dr Colley's Britons, one of the most influential historical works of the Nineties, argues that British identity is an artificial construct built in the 18th century, a keep which encircled the four nations of the United Kingdom to defend their Protestant faith against continental enemies. Her work has encouraged those who believe that the time has come for a new design. The sense that Britain's forms of government, still recognisably an inheritance from our ancestors, are no longer adequate, also informs David Cannadine's work. Dr. Clark crystallises Dr Cannadine's argument as the ___moral in our island story.

continual check on British modernisation". For Dr Cannadine that modernisation is clearly incomplete: he argues that the inevitable rescue from the ruins of decayed Britishness will be European integration.

This is poor politics built on worse history. The history-with a purpose of Colley and Cannadine, the notions of automatic obsolescence and in-built inevitability in their work can be contrasted with a different approach. There is another school of history which owes something to the philosophy of Bishop Berkeley, something to the sensibility of Samuel Coleridge, a little to the political insights of Michael Oakeshott and a great deal to the example of R.G. Collingwood. It is a school which seeks to understand historical actors in their own terms rather than as dramatis personae in another's epic, which sees political action as an autonomous activity in its own right rather than a medium for explaining theories of class, gender or national emancipation. Its special power at this moment is its deliberate, devastating, critique of those who believe there is only one course for Britain - break-up and then absorption into Europe.

There is an alternative narrative of Britain, which locates a special sense of collective British identity and destiny well before the formal Act of Union in 1707. Any audience of Henry V will recognise that sense already clearly understood in Shakespeare's depiction of an army where Scot, Welshman and Englishman are bound in a common endeavour. Dr Clark has himself shown the weakness in historical analysis of the 17th and 18th centuries which sees Britain, by virtue of a series of revolutions, setting out on a course of liberal improvement whose trajectory takes us in a direction congenial to today's constitutional radicals.

Dr Clark's interpretation of Britain's past will not convince all, but it is a vital corrective to an interpretation which has become a new orthodoxy. The work of Colley, Cannadine and their associates in providing an organising narrative has helped to popularise history and given commentators a big picture to admire, or deprecate. In an academic environment over populated with those who over specialise, they deserve praise for that. But in the attempt to understand our past no one school should dominate, especially one driven by a very political sense of what we should be. As we approach the millennium, history, of all disciplines, should be our protection against those who see only one

IMPRUDENT PRUDENTIAL

The FSA will have to hit where it hurts

Howard Davies has begun his tenure at the new City watchdog, the Financial Services Authority (FSA), with a bang. His report on mis-selling at the Prudential Corporation must be the one of the most savage indictments of a City institution ever delivered.

The Pru suffered from "deep-seated and longstanding management failures" and had "a cultural disposition against compliance" which led to "continuing persistent and serious breaches . . . across major areas of its business". All in all, its conduct "has fallen substantially below the standards that the public has a right to expect from a regulated firm".

The Pru, which owns 4 per cent of British industry and is perhaps the most famous name in British insurance, has been labelled as cynical and exploitative. Under its controversial former chief executive, Mick Newmarch, it chose to be regulated by a body, the Securities and Investments Board, which had no power to fine, unlike the Personal Investment Authority, which regulates the Pru's rivals. As a result, Mr Davies can, for the moment, do no more than "name and shame".

But the Pru seems to exude little of the latter. Mr Newmarch's successor, Sir Peter Davis, is featuring in his own television advertisements as "the man from the Pru", in an attempt to fashion a wholesome image for a company that recommended many of its clients to buy financial products that were not suitable for their circumstances. Sir Peter is now trying to tackle the problems that have beset his business — but not before

The Pru will soon come under the ambit of a regulator that does have the power to fine. That will be welcome for a company that, in the past, has appeared more concerned with its own prosperity than with that of its customers. When Mr Davies can hit companies like the Pru where it hurts, he should be able to achieve more than embarrassment.

Embarrassment is no longer an effective sanction in the City. There is barely a major insurance company that has not been named and shamed by its legal regulator. Customers in search of a wholly reputable provider are understandably frustrated. Yet these scandals have come at a time when the Government is planning to transfer many of its responsibilities - such as pensions and long-term care insurance - to the private sector. The FSA will have to work fast to reassure customers that the industry is now up to scratch.

HIGH SPIRITS

The best central heating is proof against the cold

Moscow she is certainly happy. Her trainers are helping her and her fellow circus pachyderms through the present cold snap with a warming bucket of vodka. The effect can only be imagined: elephants, like human beings, become frisky, relaxed and uninhibited when generously plied with drink. But when a three-tonne elephant takes a fancy to the ballerina on its back or topples off its circus stand, the consequences are far weightier than the friendly pinch on the bottom (or the attempt to conduct a brass band) that results from a presidential indulgence in Russia's favourite tipple.

Russians are sentimental people, who pamper their pets, their children and themselves when winter sets in. And to most Russians, nothing can rival the national elixir that warms, cheers and cures. Vodka is at once a folk medicine, a hallucinogen revealing the mysteries of the soul, and a lubricant more commonly applied to sophisticated

machinery than any conventional liquid. When coughs and colds set in. Russians massage vodka into the chest, and dose themselves with generous medicinal quantities. The aura itself has curative qualities, they maintain - though indistinguishable

Nelly the elephant may be cold, but in from the natural aroma of a crowded Russian bus. When the winter stove is stoked high, the tea is sizzling in the samovar and a Russian's thoughts turn to higher things, vodka is the potion that turns doggerel into poetry. When the car freezes down in deepest Siberia, a little vodka applied to the engine and set alight will do wonders for the ignition.

To a Russian, vodka has almost mythical qualities, and the greater the amount on hand, the larger the myth. In vain do doctors, Russian Baptists and spoilsports like Mikhail Gorbachev rail against the evils of drink. To no avail have successive Russian Governments encouraged the cultured consumption of wine as a substitute for the potent water of life. There is no substitute in the Russian soul or shop for vodka: even Bolshoi dancers swear that their performance is unimpaired by its consumption, whereas wine or beer will ruin their jetes.

The cold brings out the bottles as well as the fur hats, and Russians look forward to winter with anticipation. The Moscow elephants must relish their warming buckets - though no trainer who calls himself a Russian would not also generously test the fluid to see that it was the real thing.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Likely winners and losers in review of welfare benefits

From the Director General of Age Concern England

Sir, Over 60 per cent of the UK's disabled people are pensioners and are likely to bear the brunt of the rumoured £2 billion cut in spending on the disabled (reports, December 13, 15 and 16). Age Concern is receiving calls from distressed ill and disabled older people who deserve immediate reassurance from the Government that they will receive the money they need to survive.

In its determination to prune the welfare budget, the Government has already targeted pensioners. Over one million pensioners are not claiming as much as the £1.7 billion in benefits they are entitled to, yet the Government has recently decided to reduce the period that benefit claims can be backdated from up to a year in some cases, down to just one month. This, linked to backdating restrictions from the previous Government, will take £77 million per year out of the poorest pensioners' pockets.

On Thursday, a parliamentary standing committee will discuss plans to restrict full council-tax benefit for people living in houses worth E120,000 or more. This will save only £15 million in the first year, but will hit around 65,000 people, 30,000 of them pensioners who are managing on low incomes but find themselves living in homes that have gone up in value.

Labour 'rebels'

From Mr Philip Cowley

The change of Government has done little to improve life for the poorest pensioners.

Yours sincerely, SALLY GREENGROSS. Director General. Age Concern England, Astral House, 1268 London Road, SW16 4ER.

From Mr Nigel H. Harris, FRCS

Sir, It is widely believed that a Goverriment review of disablement benefits is taking place. The anticipated outcry will be premature until all the facts are known. I will refer to one

I examine about 400 individuals a year in receipt of incapacity benefit, following musculo-skeletal injury, who are in fact perfectly fit for alternative employment. They have either been involved in a road traffic accident or sustained an injury at work, and they are making a claim for compensation. The majority allege they are unfit for work and, after a reasonably stringent DSS disablement benefit medical examination, they are provided with incapacity benefit. This precludes them from applying for work. For many, in fact, receipt of the benefit is a positive disincentive to

even think about a job. It is very rare indeed for a musculoskeletal injury to cause a person to be

any work, although I appreciate that some will be restricted on the open job market. Clearly they should be registered unemployed and actually seeking work, and incapacity benefit should only be for those considered to

be unemployable on medical grounds.

The fit-for-work disabled should be

centage of disabled people.

I predict that if some such measures were implemented, the E8 billion overall cost of incapacity benefit would be halved, and the true level of unem-

NIGEL H. HARRIS (Consultant orthopsedic surgeon), 72 Harley Street, WIN IAE.

Sir. Is the Government (and those who vote with it) targeting for benefits cuts the very poor, their children and the handicapped because they are people who either do not have a vote or are unlikely to use it?

Yours faithfully. C. J. SLADE, 13 Church Road, Maiden Newton, Dorset DT2 0AB.

totally and permanently incapable of

provided with a certificate to indicate the type of work for which they are suitable. This might be linked to schemes whereby employers have a statutory duty to employ a certain per-

ployment made clear.

From Mr Christopher Slade

EU option for Turkey and Cyprus

From Mr Roger Forster

Sir, You reported ("Usual suspects joined by new Labour rebels", December 12) that of the 47 Labour MPs who voted against the Government on lone-parent benefits 12 were newly elected. In fact, the number was 14, your correspondents having missed Ann Cryer and Jonathon Shaw. ship of the EU.

The oversight of Ann Cryer is important, because of all the newly elected Labour women MPs, she was the only one to vote against the Government. Initial analysis of the voting demonstrates that male Labour MPs were more likely to vote against the cut in lone-parent benefits than were female MPs. And Labour's newly elected women MPs were less likely to vote against the cut than those Labour women MPs who had been in the House before the 1997 election.

Before the last election I co-wrote a paper with my colleagues Professor Philip Norton and Matthew Bailey entitled Blair's Bastards, which examined the voting behaviour of Labour MPs in the 1992 Parliament and identified those MPs most likely to cause trouble to any incoming Labour government. The paper was criticised by the Labour leadership who described it as "academic nonsense", but it proved remarkably accurate at identifying those who would cause trouble for the Government last week.

Of the 32 MPs we identified and who are still in the House, 22 voted against the Government, and seven abstained, leaving just 3 who voted for the Government. The 22 included Alice Mahon and Malcolm Chisholm, who both resigned from the Government in order to vote against the

cut.
We ended Blair's Bastards by say-ing that whilst there were some Labour MPs who were clearly ministersin-waiting, there were also those who were rebels-in-waiting. Last week, they stopped waiting.

Yours faithfully, PHILIP COWLEY, University of Hull, Hull HU6 7RX. p.j.cowley@pol-as.hull.ac.uk December 15.

Off-key remarks

From Miss Beryl M. Goldsmith

Sir, When is a typist not a typist? When she is rather more than some-one sitting in front of a machine with plugs in her ears, bashing out her master's words.
On two occasions this week your

Diary referred to two senior personal assistants in the House of Commons as typists. Miss Claire Gagneux (December 12) and myself (December 10) are amused rather than indignant. But our masters — neither of whom employs a "typist" — are not best

Yours faithfully, BERYL M. GOLDSMITH (Personal Assistant to Lord Tebbit and Parliamentary Assistant to Mr Michael Trend, MP). 34 Thomas More House. Barbican, EC2Y 8BT. December 12

Sense of direction

From Mrs Dorothy Drake

Sir, Perhaps men do learn to pay attention to direction more than women (Science Briefing, December

8; letter, December II). Covent Garden theatre and the new My husband has no use for road Sadlers Wells, each company putting maps. When finding his way in this country and in Europe all he needs is on its big productions in the former the answer to two questions: Where's and its more intimate ones in the latter?

the sun? Where's the sea? He's not bad at reaching his destination - except after dark.

Yours faithfully. DOROTHY DRAKE. 11 Queen Parade, Harregate HGI 5PW. December 15. pean churches which support their

Sir, I write from a church which has had a number of contacts with Turkey over the years. One of our members worked for the European Union office in Ankara and contributed to a book on the prospects for Turkish member-More recently some of our mem-

bers have been walking through Turkey as part of the Reconciliation Walk, a walk from Cologne to Jerusalem on the 900th anniversary of the First Crusade, to express regret for the atro-cities committed to Muslem, Jew and Christian alike during the Crusades. At that stage of course it was the Europeans who conducted a campaign of murder and rape across Turkish territory.

It is now more than 34 years since the EEC signed the Ankara Agreement with Turkey "to establish ever closer bonds between the Turkish people and the peoples brought toher in the European Economic Community". The objective of Turkish accession to the Community was already stated in 1963 and has been restated by the European side in

agreements since. This is not to deny that Turkey has significant problems. Yet it seems to us that the equivocal attitude taken by Europe to Turkey over the years has been singularly unhelpful to the Turkish authorities who have tried to address those problems. Turks look to friends for support when they face difficulties. It seems reasonable for them to expect it from partner states who sign such agreements. Such a sense of support from Europe has been regrettably missing over the

Turkey has been incontrovertibly part of European history for centuries. As long as the Turks wish to pursue the European option, we would like to put it on record that there are Euroright to do so.

Yours sincerely ROGER FORSTER (Leader). Ichthus Christian Fellowship. 107 Stanstead Road. Forest Hill, SE23 1HH. December 14.

From Mr Tony Mitsides

Sir, In your leader today, "Blair's X factor", you validly anticipate some momentous decisions over EMU and EU enlargement during Britain's presidency in the new year. But I submit you are not right to say the decision to include Cyprus in the first round of new applicants for membership is "unwise".

This commitment was undertaken by the Council of Ministers of the EU in 1995 following approval of the customs union with Turkey. It specified that negotiations with the Republic of Cyprus would start within six months of the intergovernmental conference which ended in Amsterdam last summer.

The prospect of Cyprus joining the EU was greeted by President Clinton's Special Emissary for Cyprus, Richard Holbrooke, as the biggest new factor in the 30-year stalemate. Furthermore, Cyprus fulfilled all the economic, cultural and other criteria for membership. Many thought at the time that the decision indicated also a wish to avoid Cyprus becoming a hostage for European membership to Ankara, and a reminder to Turkey that it had not moved enough towards a settlement despite numerous resolutions and great efforts at the United Nations and in Europe.

Yours faithfully TONY MITSIDES, 70 Cissbury Ring South, NI2 7BD. December 13.

Maxwell connection

From Mr Bruce V. Jones

Sir, The letter from Mr Joe Haines (December 10) does rather provoke the comment: "Come off it, Joe." I too am one of the 25,000 ex-Maxwell employees. I did at least last six months until I resigned, but in typical Cap'n Bob style he roared: "You can't resign; you work for me; you're fired." Apart from that we finally parted on good

The truth is it was generally known by people who had come up against him in a working context what Max-well was like. I witnessed many of our political great-and-good in his office and was amazed by the sycophancy and toadying behaviour: to have seen Maxwell and George Brown together, as a mutual admiration society, was

(letters, December 5 and 6).

That way London will get the opera

have two big ones.

provision it needs.

Yours faithfully, BRYAN MAGEE,

December 6.

12 Falkland House,

Marloes Road, W8 5LF.

far from uplifting.

It was these people who allowed Maxwell to thrive for so long. The world of political "luvvies" breeds and accepts confidence tricksters like Maxwell: all its members are guilty. Both Labour and Conservatives were seduced by him.

I have two books on my shelves about Maxwell: one is by Tom Bower and it presents a very good picture of the Maxwell I knew (and Maxwell tried to stop it being published). The other is by Joe Haines, written while he worked for Maxwell.

Yours faithfully. BRUCE V. JONES (General Manager, Pergamon Press, 1965), Down Ampney House, Down Ampney, Cirencester GL7 5QW,

Opera committee Hidden pockets

From Mrs Sally Gibbons From Professor Bryan Magee Sir, I hope that Sir Richard Eyre, who

Sir. There is nothing new under the sun - and certainly not knickers with pockets (report and photograph, Deis chairing the committee that will report to the Government on the cember 11). These excellent garments future of opera and ballet in London. were regulation wear when I was at school. Admittedly they were slightly will recommend that the two opera companies share two theatres, not one more voluminous than the ones designed by the girls of Tiffin's What London needs, in full-time School, and they came in standard operation, is one big opera house and one smaller one - at the moment we navy blue, with a distinctly scratchy finish, but the pockets were invalu-Why not suggest that the Royal Opera and the English National Opera share both the refurbished able, being hidden receptacles for all those essential but forbidden items like sticky sweets and photographs of Dickie Valentine.

> Yours faithfully. SALLY GIBBONS,

288 Earls Court Road, SW5 9AS. December 11.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Cost of recovering those lost at sea

From Mr M. Wilkinson

Sir. Whilst I was sorry to hear of the deaths of four crewmen on the trawler Sapphire, I did not agree with requests for the Government to fund the £500,000 operation to recover the bodies, or that such expenses should be met by the Government in future

cases (reports, December 15 and 16). Loss of life is an ever-present risk for seagoers, and for centuries it has been accepted that bodies are unlikely to be recovered. The technological advances made in recent years that may aid recovery do not, in my view, justify huge sums of public money being spent in this way, when patients are experiencing a shortage of re-

sources in hospitals. Also, who would decide which cases were appropriate for recovery? Mar-ine technology is so far advanced that once a wreck is located, time and resources are the only obstacles to salvage. Would it be fair to fund the recovery of some but not others? Would the Government set a cost

Whilst I respect the widows' rights to commemorate their late husbands in whatever way they choose, perhaps the money could have provided a more practical memorial if it had been made available to, for example, any of the seamen's missions, a benefit fund for sailors' widows or the RNLI.

Yours faithfully, M. WILKINSÓN, 27 Swallow Gardens, Carlton, Nottingham NG4 INR. December 16.

Britannia's future

From Mr Neil McCart

Sir, Lord Callaghan of Cardiff and Captain Richard Sharpe, RN (letters, December 11 and 13 respectively; see also letters, November 27, December 2 and 16) are both wrong, in my view, in wishing to see Britannia broken up. If their argument is taken to its logical conclusion there would be no point in preserving any historical ship, including the Mary Rose, HMS Victory, or HMS Warrior, all of which add to the nation's rich maritime heritage.

However, Manchester and Leith would both quite clearly be the wrong venue for Britannia. The yacht's natural home is Portsmouth, where she would form part of the city's great naval heritage; this already attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors from home and abroad each year. Kept there she would never become an embarrassment or a liability

I would have thought that Lord Callaghan, as a former Pompey man, would have added his support to the city's bid. It is not too late to keep Britannia in her home port.

Yours faithfully, NEIL McCART, 17 Wymans Lane, Swindon Village, Cheltenham GL51 9QA. December 17.

Beef on the bone

From Dr Richard Henderson

Sir, Surely the answer to this dilemma [letters, December 5, 13, 15, 16, 17] is obvious and is given us by the parallel issue of tobacco?

Consumers should be provided with information about possible (albeit remote) health risks associated with beef on the bone and allowed to make up their own minds, but beef farmers and butchers should be banned from sponsoring sporting events.

Yours faithfully. R. G. HENDERSON. Ord House, Little Fencote, Northallerton DL7 ORR. richardhenderson2@compuserve.com December 15.

From Dr Henry Hardy

Sir. In view of the discovery by reputable scientists that life is almost universally fatal, there is a pressing need for legislation to ban human reproduction. Why is the Government dragging its feet?

Yours etc. HENRY HARDY, 22 Norham Road, Oxford OX2 6SF.

From Mrs Jean Miles

Sir. Wild animals do not normally behave like the deer who joined the claypigeon shoot in Sutherland (report and photograph, today). In a rabbit, one would suspect myxomatosis; in a fox, distemper. In this case, BSE?

Yours faithfully, JEAN MILES, 31 Drummond Place. Edinburgh EH3 6PW. jean@jeanmile.demon.co.uk December 10.

From Mr Shaun Evelegh

Sir, Not so much a "Nanny State" (letter, today) as a limited steak-holding

Yours faithfully, SHAUN EVELEGH, Calmbrook, Fairy Road, Seaview, Isle of Wight PO345HF. December 16.

From Mrs Diana Hastie

Sir, Is turkey on the bone banned yet? Yours faithfully, DIANA HASTIE,

Groom's Cottage, Burton Hall Road, Rossett, Wrexham LL12 OAR.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE December 17: His Excellency Archbishop Pablo Puente was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Apostolic Nuncio from the Holy See to the Court of St James's.

Mr J.R. Young (Deputy Under-Secretary and Chief Clerk, Foreign and Commonwealth Office) was present.

Mr Justice Sullivan was received by The Queen upon his appointment as a Justice of the High Court when Her Majesty conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood and invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Bachelor.

The Queen held a Council at

There were present: The Rt Hon Ann Taylor MP (President), the Lord Hardie (Lord Advocate), the Rt Hon Jack Straw MP (Secretary of State for the Home Department), the Rt Hon Margaret Beckett MP (President of the Board of Trade and Secretary of State for Trade and Industry), the Rt Hon Frank Dobson MP (Secretary of State for Health), the Rt Hon Dr Jack Cunningham MP (Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food) and the Rt Hon Tom Clarke MP (Minister of State, Department for Culture. Media and Sport).

Mr Nigel Nicholls was in attendance as Clerk of the Council.

The Rt Hon Ann Taylor MP had an audience of Her Majesty before the Council.

The Earl of Airlie KT had an audience of The Queen. delivered up his Wand and Insignia of Office as Lord Chamberlain and the Badge of Chancellor of the Royal Victorian Order and took leave upon relinguishing his appointment as Lord Chamberlain when Her Majesty invested him with the Royal Victorian Chain.

By command of Her Majesty. Vice Admiral Sir James Weatherall (Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps) called upon His Excellency Mr Vanias Markides at 93 Park Street, London WI, this morning in order to bid farewell to His Excellency upon relinquishing his appointment as High Commissioner for the Republic of Cyprus in London. BUCKINGHAM PALACE December 17: The Princess Royal, Patron, National Asso-

ciation of Victims Support Schemes, this morning attended a meeting of the Advisory Board at Church House, Westminster, London SWI.

Her Royal Highness, Patron, SENSE - the National Deafblind and Rubella Association, this afternoon attended a Lunch at Rutland Trust plc. Rutland House, Rutland Gardens, London SW7.

The Princess Royal, President. Animal Health Trust. this evening attended the Christmas Celebration Dinner at the Banqueting House, Whitehall, London SWI.

ST JAMES'S PALACE December 17: The Prince of Wales, President, this morning met members of The Prince of Wales Business Leaders Forum at St James's Palace to review aspects of the past year's activities.

His Royal Highness, Colo nel-in-Chief. The Royal Regi-ment of Wales (24th/41st Foot) this afternoon visited The Queen's Guard at St James's

The Prince of Wales, President. The Prince of Wales's Institute of Architecture, afterwards presented Diplomas at an Awards Ceremony at St James's Palace.

His Royal Highness, Patron, this evening attended a performance of Verdi's Requiem at the Royal Festival Hall, London SEI, on the occasion of the Fortieth Anniversary of the Philharmonia Chorus. KENSINGTON PALACE

December 17: The Duke of Gloucester, Commissioner, English Heritage, this morning attended a Commissioners' meeting at Fortress House, Savile Row, London

The Duchess of Gloucester. Sponsor, HMS Gloucester. this afternoon received Commander T.A. Cunningham RN upon relinquishing his appointment as Commanding Officer and Commander T. Fraser RN upon assuming the

Her Royal Highness this evening attended a "Carols by Candlelight" Service in aid of the Honeypot Home Charity at St Luke's Church, Sydney Street, London SW3.

ST JAMES'S PALACE December 17: The Duchess of Kent this morning presented the Children of Courage Awards at Westminster Ab bey. London SWI.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of York will attend the Year of the Seafarer finale concert at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London SEI at 7.15 in aid of the King George's Fund for Sailors. Princess Margaret will attend a nerformance of Cinderella by the Adventures in Motion Pictures Company at the Piccadilly Theatre at 7.25 in aid of the Dancers' Trust

Commemoration service

Miss Dorothy L. Sayers A service was held yesterday at St Anne's, Soho, to mark the fortieth anniversary of the death of Miss Dorothy L. Sayers. The Rev Fred Stevens officiated, assisted by the Right Rev Lord Runcie, the Right Rev Richard Watson and Prebendary Gerard Irvine. Miss Sheila Mitchell read from Dante's Paradiso and Canon John Thurmer gave an address. Members of the L. Sayers Society

Birthdays way

Field Marshal Lord Bramall, KG.

74; Miss Frances Crook, director. Howard League for Penal Reform. 45; Mr David Crossland, chairman, Airtours, 51; Lieutenant-Commander I.E. Fraser, VC, 77; Mr Christopher Fry, dramatist, 90: Pamela Lady Harlech, 63: Professor M.J. Harrison, Vice-Chancellor, Wolverhampton University, 57; Miss Rosemary Leach, actress, 62; Lord Lofthouse of Pontefract, 72; Lord Merlyn-Rees, 77; Mr J.C.S. Mott. civil engineer, 71; Mr Albert Pacey, former director-general, National Criminal Intelligence Service, 59: Miss Annette Page, ballerina, 65: Major-General R. Bernard Penfold, 81: Dr Joyce Reynolds, PRA Bernard histories, 70: Mr. FBA. Roman historian, 79; Mr Keith Richard, Rolling Stones guitarist, 54; Lord Robens of Woldingham, 87; Miss Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, tennis player, 26; the Earl of Shrewsbury, 45; Mr Steven Spielberg, film-maker, 50; Mr Joe Wade, trade unionist, 78; the Right Rev R.K. Williamson. Bishop of Southwark, 65; Mr W.H.

Professor Stringer with the skull of a Neanderthal woman found in Gibraltar in 1848

New evidence links us to Neanderthals

THE Neanderthals, a prehistoric human-like species popularly depicted as hair-covered brutes with features like apes, could be directly linked to modern man, scientists said yesterday.

The latest technology has also shown that the early cavemen were more intelligent than was thought - but experts still cannot work out why they expired while later arrivals. Cro-Magnon man, survived and evolved into modern mankind.

Professor Chris Stringer, Principal Researcher, Human Origins, at the Natural History Museum, London, said

that evidence now shows that Neanderthal man was a separate species, closely linked but genetically different from us. "What cannot be ruled out though is that late Neanderthals bred with our direct descendants, Cro-Magnon man, before they became extinct," said Professor Stringer at a 150th anniversary celebration of the discovery of a Neanderthal woman's skull on Gibraltar. The latest dating and DNA testing techniques mean that theoretically we could now find a link with an individual or group of individuals today that would show they were descended from Neanderthal man."

New findings have also unearthed increasing evidence that Neanderthal man was far from a backward brute. Our latest excavations at Gibraltar's Vanguard Cave show that they collected mussels and lightly cooked them in hot ashes in order to open up the shells. This evidence of an ability to process food is a revealing one."

ADRIAN SHERRATI

But what caused the cavemen's demise, after living untroubled in Europe for around 200,000 years, remains a mystery. Professor Stringer simply says: "I think our ancestors were just more adaptable."

The Leverhulme Trust **Dinners**

Air Force Board Lord Gilbert, Minister of State for Defence Procurement, and Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Johns. Chief of the Air Staff, were the hosts at a dinner held last night at Admiralty House. The American Ambassador was the principal

Ambassador was the principal guest. Among others present were: Baroness Park, Marshal of the RAF Sir Keith Williamson. General Sir Roger Wheeler, Sir Maurice Drake, Dame Steila Rimington, Sir Thomas Risk, Mr C K Chow, Mr Sydney Dowse, Major-General William S Himon, Jr., Air Vice-Marshal P J Harding, the Very Rev Dr Wesley Carr, Mr Robert Wortester and members of the Air Force Board. Royal College of General

The Royal College of General Practitioners held a dinner at St John's College, Cambridge, on December 12 in honour of the World Health Organisation and the World Organisation of Family Doctors. Professor Denis Pereira Gray and Dr Goran Sjonell spoke.

Those present included:

Dr C Boelen, Dr M Boland, Dr P
Evans, Dr B Keighley, Dr Z
Leopando, Dr A Loh, Dr L Newman,
Professor F Oleson, Dr R Perkins and
Dr J Toby,

Luncheon London Chamber of Com

and Industry Miss Angela Rippon was the guest speaker at a Christmas luncheon of the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry held yesterday at the Savoy Hotel. Sir Brian Jenkins, president of the chamber, was the host. Afterwards a raffle and auction was held in aid of

Church news

The Rev Geoffrey Stephen Pedley, a Residentiary Canon at Durham Cathedral, to be Suffragan Bishop of Lancaster (Diocese of Blackburn) in succession to the Rev John (Jack) Nicholls, who has become Bishop of Sheffield. The Ven Michael Arthur Hill, Archdeacon of Berkshire, to be Suffragan Bishop of Buckingham The Leverhulme Trustees agreed, at their recent meeting, to award the following grants to institutions: Research: Economics, business studies, industrial relations

University of Nottingham, Mr T Buck, Dr 1 Filatotchev, Russian companies with traded shares: corporate governance and strategies, 169,920 over three years Birkbeck College, Professor J Michie, Queen's University of Belfast, Dr M Sheehan, Labour market dynamics and innovation, £98,350 over three

University of Nottingham, Professor P Newbold, Professor A J Rayner, Professor C T Ennew, Dr S J Leybourne, Econometric issues in the analysis of efficiency in futures and forward markets, £22,180 over 12 months

School of Oriental and African Stud-ies, Ms S Ruehl, Vietnamese rural credit innovations and implications for women's credit access, £1,900

University of Stirling, Dr R Ball, Dr D King, Private finance initiative conomic and managerial implications. E53,300 over two years MacDonald, Divisia and time vary-ing financial variables in the UK economy, £24,580 over 12 months

Department of Applied Economics, University of Cambridge, Dr S N Solomou, Impact of weather shocks on European economies 1870-1913, £39,020 over one and a half years National Institute of Economic and National insinate of economic and Social Research. Mr N Outton, The productivity performance of the UK electricity supply industry. £87,750 over one and a half years

Research: Law, politics. international relations

University of Leicester, Dr M King, The policing of public order in post-socialist countries: Hungary and Lithuania. £2.000 (extension) Kingston University, Dr B Brivati, Modernisation in the general election campaigns of the Labour Party since 1945, £57.870 over two years

Queen Elizabeth House, University of Oxford, Dr E V K FitzGerald, Trends in the manufacturing terms of trade and the developing countries, E27,940 over 12 months (extension) Research: Social sciences (including anthropology, geography, social psychology)

University of Stirling, Dr F McLean, The construction of national identity

in the Museum of Scotland, £59,620

Pesenrch: Medicine, health King's College London. Dr M J Lawrence, Dr D J Barlow. Novel tipid analogues for production of long-circulating vesicles. £99,490 over

Research: Basic sciences University of Exeter, Dr J A Brown. Phenotypic plasticity of stress sen-strivity in early life stages of turbot, £63,670 over two years

University of Wales, Bangor, Professor R S Thorpe, Dr A Malhotra, Far-East Asian pit vipers: venom evolution and biodiversity, £84,350

Over three years.
University of Wales College of Cardiff, Dr J D Hardege, University of St
Andrews, Dr M G Bentley. The
Marine Biological Association of the
United Kingdom, Dr A S Clare,
Communication between the sexes:
isolation of a female crab sex pherocrace E Co 620 care tays and a batif mone, £70,620 over two and a half

University of Exeter, Dr A Usher, Milli-Kelvin magnetometry studies of the quantum hall effects, £84,830 over hree years University of Nottingham, Dr M Mascal, The application of hydrogen bonding to the control of nanoscale

structure, £35,450 over three years University of York, Dr A F Parsons, A radical approach to medicinally important mitomycins, £27,000 over 12

Physical and Theoretical Chemistr Physical and Incurency Chemistry Laboratory, University of Oxford, Professor J P Simons, Professor J M Brown, Conformational landscapes and charge separation in model, biomolecular assemblies, £85,990 ower sparce Acaste.

University of Birmingham, Dr D Philp, New materials based on bo-ron-nitrogen heteroaromatic systems, 196,970 over three years British Antarctic Survey, Dr I L Boyd, Marine mammals and the measure-ment of physical oceanographic variability, £17,490 over 12 months

University of Hull, Professor G R Carvalho, Dr I. Hauser, Long-term genetic changes in exploited popula-tions: archived lish scales. £61,960 over two years Queen's University of Belfast, Dr C H

with a novel backbone using in vitro translation, £33,770 over 12 months University of Essex, Professor R J Cherry, University of Bristol, Professor J A Tanner, Investigation of the anion transporter, band 3, expressed in yeast, £37,700 over one and a half

over two years Queen Mary and Westfield College, Dr H Southall, Mapping the chang-ing Civil Parishes of England and Wales, 1881-1974, £35,980 over nine

> University of Bristol, Dr D B Wright. Can postevent information eliminate memories of the past? 169.250 over three years University of Sheffield, Dr D M

Williams, DNA-based endonoclease as therapeutics, £86,920 over three University of Edinburgh, Dr D Charlesworth, DNA sequence diversity in in- and out-breeding populations of Leavenworthia,

£78,780 over three years Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, Dr G Frankel, St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical School, University of London, Dr M Pallen, University of Birmingham, Dr S Krutton, The EPBC adherasome: the importance of colled-coil interactions, £35,000 over 12 months

Research: Applied scient (including architecture) University College London, Dr S R Arridge, Ms J A Schnabel, MultiScale Shape analysis in 3D medical images, £49,640 over two

years

Years

On Aherdeen, Dr. C. Coulsby, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, Dr. C. Gibbins, Hydrological disturbance and ecological response in headwater streams, £53,380 over two years

Research: Humanities University of Strathclyde, Professor T M Devine, The Catholic Irish in Western Lowland Scotland, 1850 1920, E72,320 over three years Royal Holloway, Dr B Taylor, A study of the enlightenment contribu-tion to 18th century ferninism, £69,350

over three years Over three years

Over three years

Over three years

Over three years

Over three years American University of Beirut, Professor H Seeden, Beirut: ancient amics and socio-economic change,

£99,340 over three years Education: fine arts Royal College of Music, Mr P Hewitt, Bursaries for the Junior Department (extra), E31.530 over two years Total grants: £2,142,390

Forthcoming marriages

Mr N.S.G. Dix and Miss H.F. Bolus The engagement is announced between Ninrod, only son of Mr John Dix, of Llangybi, Dyfed, and Mrs Anner Reijs, of Javea, Spain. and Fiona, younger daughter of Commander Martyn Bolus, of Wimbledon, and the late Mrs Elisabeth Bolus

Mr Y. Haias and Miss N.A. Spence The engagement is announced between Yannis, son of Mr and

Mrs Evangelos Halas, of Athens, and Nicola, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Spence, of Guildford, Mr A.R.T. Johnson and Miss S-J.E. Treherne Pollock

The engagement is announced between Richard, eldest son of Mr Aniony Johnson, of The Old Hun-dred, Tormarion, Gloucestershire, and Mrs Michael Wan, of Greens Park, Towcester, Northampton-shire, and Sophic-Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Treherne Pollock, of The Chase, London. Mr B.J. Packe-Druiy-Lowe nd Miss S.J. Cursham

and Miss S.J. Gursham
The engagement is announced between Edward, son of Simon Packe-Drury-Lowe, of Seagrave, Leicestershire, and Julietta Packe-Drury-Lowe, of Fulham, London, and Juliet, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Cursham, of East Leake, Leicestershire.

Mr M.J. Pisto Mr M.J. Pinto and Miss A.H. Higgins

The engagement is announced between Matthew, son of Mr and Mrs Salvatore Pinto, of Maidenhead, Berkshire, and Alison, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Simon Higgins, of Hutton, Essex.

and Miss S. Davies The engagement is announced between Henry, younger son of Mr Jack Syles, of Bickton Manor. Fordingbridge, and Mrs James Dawson, of Iwerne Stepleton, Dorset, and Samantha, daughter of Mr Cled Davies, of Romsey, and Mrs Gillie Davies, of The Barn.

Whiteparish. Mr N.J.P. Wiggins and Miss S.J. Moisey The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of the late Mr and Mrs D.M. Wiggins, of Mr and Mrs C.U. Moisey, of Bath,

Mr T.E.T. Worlock and Miss H.J. Measures

The engagement is announced between Timothy, only son of Dr and the Hon Mrs F.C. Worlock, of Fladbury. Worcestershire, and Jennifer, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs R.E. Measures, of Shutford, Oxfordshire.

Mr J.K.F.S. Young and Miss A.F. Langwill The engagement is announced between James, younger sort of Mr and Mrs J.S. Young, of Bournemouth, and Alison, daughter of Mr and Mrs A.R. Langwill, of Bancol, Cooma, NSW, Australia

Marriage

Mr A.J. Gibbs and the Hon Mrs Meynell The marriage took place on Wednesday, December 17, 1997, in London, between Julian Gibbs and Alexandra Meynell.

How Roman Yorkshire kept up with the Jonuses

By Norman Hammond, archaeology correspondent rectangular timber-framed ROMAN Yorkshiremen could house in the Roman style,

be as socially ambitious as some of their modern successors, a recent discovery suggests. Some 16 centuries ago, a local homeowner added a stone bath-house to his timber-framed dwelling - the equivalent, perhaps, of putting a Jacuzzi extension on to a terraced cottage today.

This is a local attempt to appear more civilised than your neighbours, said Dr Jeremy Taylor of Durham University. Without the bath-house, the building is very similar to others near by".

The find came during excavation of an Iron Age settlement at Hayton, in East Yorkshire, where the British inhabitants gradually came to accept Roman culture. Glass vessels, pottery and brooches were brought in, but for more than a century after the Roman Conquest the inhabitants continued to build their traditional round houses. -

"In those days, getting ahead seems to have involved showing that you were more Romanised than your neighbour", the journal British Archaeology comments. Ambition clearly descended in the family, because around

although it is not clear wheth-

er it stood in a village or alone.

AD 300 the then owner "did a" strange thing — he built a tiny stone bath-house on to the end. of his timber home," something which Dr Taylor noted as particularly unusual. It was also a particularly gaudy building", he said: although the rooms were only off square, they were decorated with crudely painted wall plaster, and the white chalk of the exterior walls "would have stood out noticeably in the landscape".

If you had it in those days.

you clearly wanted to flaunt it: keeping up with the Jonuses Then somebody put up a was a serious business.

Receptions

HM Government Mrs Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, was the host at a reception given by Her Majesty's Government at Lancaster House yesterday in recog-nition of the services of the Export

English Speaking Union A reception was held last night at Dartmouth House after the annual Christmas Carol concert. Mr Ralph Allwood, Precentor of Eton College, directed the Rodolfus Oc-tet and Mr Robert Cohen, cello. Mrs E. Norman-Butler, chairman of the English-Speaking Union's Cultural Affairs Committee, presided, and received the guests with general:

Latest wills

Charles James Lucas, of Horsham, West Sussex, left estate valued at £2,099,963 net. Sylvia Rose Ellis, of Canford Cliffs, Poole, Dorset, left estate valued at £1,002.588 net.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Charles Wesley, preacher and hymn writer, Epworth, Lincolnshire, 1707; Joseph Grimaldi, clown, London, 1779; Hector Hugo Munro (Saki), writer, Akyab, Burma, 1870; Sir Joseph John Thomson, physicist. Nobel laureate 1906, Manchester, 1856; Francis Thompson, poet. Preston, 1859; Paul Klee, painter, Berne, 1879; Betty Grable, actress, St Louis, Missouri, 1916; Prince William of Gloucester, Barnet Hertfordshire, 1941. DEATHS: Antonio Stradivari, vi

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olin maker, Cremona, Italy, 1737; Alexander Adam, educator, Edinburgh, 1809; Jean Baptiste de Lamarck, naturalist, Paris, 1829; Samuel Rogers, poet, London, 1855; Sir Richard Owen, biologist, Newtown, Powys, 1858; Sir John Alcock, aviator, killed in an air crash, Conevvard, France, 1919; Robert Tyre (Bobby) Jones, goifer, . Atlanta, Georgia, 1971.

America officially abolished slavery with the ratification of the 13th Amendment, 1865. Piltdown Man was discovered by Charles Dawson, Sussex. 1912.

TRADE: 0171 481 1982 FAX: 0171 481 9313

PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

BMDS: 0171 680 6880

AMBLER - In Melbourne Australia, on December 13th, to Tiffany (née McNab) and Jonathan, a daughter, India Frances.

ER - Qu Dec

LEADSON - On December 13th to Emma (née Reeve) and Simon, a daughter, India Alice Mary, a sister to Bory, Freddie and William. Present and vinina.

Lister - On December 14th at
The Portland Hospital to
Relico and Joseph, a
beautiful daughter Aimáe
Ayaka. Born 9pm. 7lbs 12cm.

BARLEOROUGH - On December 11th at The Portland Hospital to Eve and David, a son, Nicolas Recs. PHILIPS - Ca December 6th at The Fortland Hospital to Sara (nee Gordon) and

(Diocese of Oxford) in succession to the Right Rev Colin James Yates, former senior partner, Knight Frank and Rutley, 62. Bennetts, who has become Bishop of Coventry.

PERSONAL COLUMN

MEMORIAL SERVICES

have chosen the path of faithfulness; I have set your decrees before me. I hold fast to your instruction; Lord, do not let me be put to shame. Paulm 119: 30,31
BIRTHS

SCOWCROFT - On Tuesday
16th December 1997, a son,
for james and Sars, jody
Robert at West Suffolk
Hospital, Bury St Edmunds.
2017 - On December 11th at
The Fortland Hospital to
Hayley (note Bernerd) and
jonathan, a daughter jeminus
jasminu, a statuter jeminus
jasminu, a statut for jack. BRIGHTY - On December 15th, to Alice (note Einchings) and Michael, a beautiful son, William George, CARTER - See Scowcroft, DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

FLORARCE: GOODALL - On Docember 18th, 1937, at Yateley Parish Church, Ronald to Marjerie, Still in North Cadbury, Somesset. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS ISSUEY - The family of the late Robert Linaley would like to thank all his friends and collectures who have supported them during their

BIRTHS

BARLOW - Peacefully in hospital on December 15th 1997 Edmund (Ted) aged 83 years beloved husband of Edith Service at St Thomas's Church, St. Annes-on-Sea on Tuesday December 23rd at 11sts followed by cremetion at Park Cremetorium Lythum Donations to Cancer Research e/o J & A Porter, Windsor Road, Assdell, Lythum St. Annes, Luncs F28 1AH Teb 01253 735423.

DEATHS

CALZABA - Suddenly on December 13th Eafael beloved husband of the late Thin'. He will be greatly missed by his sistur-halaw Milly Butter Madden and by his many friends in this country and all his relatives and friends in Spain and Argentins. The funeral will take place at Crowphill Chemsterium Militon Keynes on Honday 22nd December at 12:30 pm. Family Scowers only, doubtions if desired for Willen Hospice or Macmillan Nursing Fund vis Funeral Directors H w Mason & Sons, 9 High Street.

Newport Pagnell MKIG SAR.

BULAKE - Dr. Num formachy of Natali, Maitena, Michael,

Rewport Pagnell MK16 SAR DWARF PRINTED TO PR

REFFITH - Richard Meurice, 17th December 1997 of Glan Conwy, Retired Manager Michael Bank, Rhos-co-Sea, Midmid Bank, Rhos-on-Ges, peacevally after a thort liness. Beloved husband of the late Joanne (nos Kay). Funeaul service at 8: Finnick Church, Glan Conwy on Tuesday 23rd December 1997 at 1.00 p.m. Fashly Stovens only, doustions for Epilopsy Research may be sent to A C Lumbert & Son Funeaul Directions, 69, Conwy Road, Llandodno Junecton, L.31 91.7 Telx(01492) 593483.

HUGHES - Francis, OBE-Peacefully on 16th December. Dearest husband of Reanda, and very much loved father of Jermy and Lyastte, Wendy and Peask, Melanie and David and the late Nicholas. Special Opa of Natali, Maitena, Michael, Penny and Rissberley, Emma and Alex. Twin brother of John Funnal at The Church of the Sacred Heart, Wadhurst, Sussex on 20th December 12.30pm and afterwards at home, Wadhurst, Family flowers only. Donations to Royal Marshan Hospital, Sutton or canter research.

ABBAY - Peacefully at home on December 15th, kate (noise Cardes) after a long illness home with indomitable spirit. Damly loved wife of Migel and devoned mother of Otivia, Emily and Melissa. Private Funeral Service. Family flowers only. Denations, if desired, to Imperial Concer Research Fund of Feter Taylor. Funeral Services, Station Road, Hoh, Renfelt, N225 dBS, A Memorial Service will be held at Gresham's School Chapei, Roit, Rorfolk on Saturday January 16th at 1130 am.

MERRILLS - Peacefully at home after a cruel filness bravely borne Austin Herrills ONE, Tyainghame. Beloved husband of Daphne, loved and loving father of Amenda, Simon and Victoria.

Amunda, Simon and Victoria.
Dear father in-law of James and Hand and loved Gampy of Libby, leases, Stephan and Katie. A Thanksgiving Service will be held in Prestonkirk Church, East Linton on Saturday 20th December at 12 noon to which all friends are respectfully invited. Randly flowers only please, but donations if wished to Marie Curie Camper Care. MSTHERINGHAM-LANDES

Matheringham-Laming Dorothy passed away passefully on 16th Becomber 1997 aged 86 years. Much loved and devoted wife of Frank. Service and cremation at Winford Hill Nottingham on Priday 19th December at 11.00 am Howest may be sent to a. W. Lynn, Robin Hood House, Nottingham. Tel: 0115 9505 875.

LENCOLK - E Brian Dil., son of the late Tommy and Doris, suddenly and pescefully at home on December 15th 1997, formetly of Underhill Road, Cleaden Village, near Sunderland, Tyne and West. Puneral Service to be half at St Historic, denty loved father of Doughes and Raisine, adorad grandfather of Julian, Service of Thanksgiving will be held at Kautsfood Farth Church on Wednesday 7th january 1998 at 220pm. Donations of Wednesday 7th january 1998 at 220pm. Donations if wished for The Farish Church Bell Restoration Appeal and The Raitish Rad Gross Society, Donations and provinces and Prophenous and Prophenous Pro at Kautsford Fartha Church on Wednesday 7th Junuary 1998 at 220pm. Denations if winhed for The Parish Church Bell Restoration Appeal and The British Bed Gross Society, Donations and enquiries to Dodgson's Funeral Service, 25 Manchester Road, Knutsford. Tel: Knutsford (01565) 634251.

MH.WARD - Francis John retired Surgeon died peacefully at home on Monday December 15th 1997 aged 94 Butch loved by his wife Rosemary, his three children Timothy, Vanesa and Frances and his six grandchildren. Funezal Sarvice and burial at Barlow Parish Chunch on Monday December 22nd at 200 pm. Au enquiries to Entersleys Funezal Directors Tel: 01246 232820.

MOSSWORTHY - John Milford, aged 75 years of Tewkesbury and Sebengham. Penogfully on December 15th, after a brave fight against center. Much leved brother to Pat and Anne, and a devoted Uncle and Codfather. Attended Conville & Caina College Cambridge, late principal of High Trees School, Surrey and Registrar of Christchunch Cathedral, Oxford. Thunks to the staff of Tewkesbury Hospital and all at Tewkesbury Abbey. Register Mass will be held at Tewkesbury Abbey on Monday December 22nd at 1-30pm. Fedoreat by private at Tewkesbury Abbey on Mondey December 22nd st 1-30ps. Followed by private cremation. Family flowers only plesse, donations if desired to be shared between Tewkesbury Hospital and Tewkesbury Abbey should be sent to Malcolm J Freshand Pemenal Directors, 1 High Street, Tewkesbury,

OXLEY - Dorothy, sedde peacefully on Frida December 12th 1997. a December 12th 1997 at Winchester Hospital aged 22. Loving whe of the inte Colonel Malcolm Oxley. Requiem Mass at the EC. Cheath of Christ the King. Lords Croft, London Road, Amesbury, Willishize on Monday 22nd, at 230 pm.

REDWOOD - H. Eichard, on 16th Documber, 1997, aged 84 years. Formerly of Strawberry Hill, Twickenham, founder of Redwood & Feller Limited Beloved husband of Kathleen, father of Famosea and Esther-b-law of George and Charles Proment Service will take place at Medway Crematorium on Tesseny 23ml December at 3.20 p.m. Family flowers only, but donations, if desired to The Wisdom Hospico Charleshie Fund Co. High & Sons, I Bayford Road, Sittinghourne, Kent. Tek 01795-472968.

SUITON - Robert William Sutton CB, OBE Died peacefully at home in Cottenham Cambridge on

Baddeley) on December 16th at Melbahen Hospital 16th, sped 91, pencafully at home. Wife of the late jack, swech loved mother of David and Roya and gandmother of Emms, Katie, Charles, Christopher and Richard, Fuseday December 24th at St Ramabes Chainch, Guest 18th, Pensily flowers only but, if desired to Friends of Melbahen Hospital clo Arthur W Mays Funeral Divector 52 Warminster Road, Colchester COS 4AA.

TOPLEY - Crissi Hester (Gille).
On 16th December, percetally at her daughter's home after a short Uness, aged 93. Wife of the late legam, mother of Ann and Keith, grandmether of Kobert, jounthan, jamie, william and the late. Tom and gener quandmother of Marthew, Helen, Emma, loseph, Georgia, james and Lucy. Information as to funeral arrangements from 2 & H. Barker (Funeral Directors), Didcot. Tal. 01235.ETLATO.

258 - Stanley Ching Pah aged 79, ungically on December 13th at Molessy, the day of moving to a new home. Much hoved father of Vivien, Stella and Bichard, Puneral Service at Englatic Penetral and Richard, Funeral Survice at Enndalls Park Crematorium, Lasthathead, Surmy, Prittsy lanuary 9th 1998 at 11,00 at n. Family flowers only please. Densitions if desired to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund of F W Paine, Funeral Discours 71 Walton Road, East Molecky, Surrey KTG COP. Tel: 0181 979 5343.

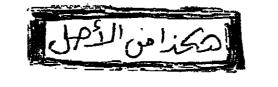
will be a Remodal Service to celebrate the Hist of Skr Colin Campbell Bt. MC at 12 o'clock on Friday 16th January 1998 at Dunblane Cathedral. THANKSGIVING

SERVICES

in John Courson Kring - A service of thanksgiving will be held at 11.30 am on Saturday January 17th at Winchester Cathedral IN MEMORIAM ---PRIVATE

HISTORE - Frank 18th December 1996. Remembered by all his family. WANTED

FLATSHARE



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OBITUARIES

Rudolf Bahro, Marxist intellectual and environmenta! campaigner, died on December 5 from leukaemia aged 62. He

was born on November

18, 1935.

udolf Bahro was a brave and original thinker who forsook his early roots in the Communist Party to become one of the most effective critics of the East German regime. His writings had a profound influence on the development of dissident thought in that country, and he was largely responsible for creating the nexus of environmentalism and political protest in the German Democratic Republic which characterised the final phase of internal opposition to one-party rule.

Born in Silesia and brought

up in rural East Germany, Bahro became a member of the Socialist Unity Party at the age of 19. He studied philosophy (effectively meaning Marxism-Leninism) at the Humboldt University in East Berlin, but his doctoral disser-To tation on worker incentives in state-owned enterprises was rejected as too critical.

In 1959, fired by a campaign to move intellectuals into the countryside, he moved to Neubrandenburg, where he edited a local newspaper, before returning to East Berlin in 1962 as a trade union functionary and then as deputy editor of a party newspaper for young intellectuals. It was here that he had his first serious brush with authority, when he published an uncensored extract from a play by the challenging dramatist Volker Braun and was promptly sacked from the editorial team.

But he clung doggedly to the Socialist Unity Party (later, he would describe his devotion as a substitute for maternal love). His approach to the party and its doctrine during this period was that of the postwar generation of Marxist-Leninists who believed that it was inefficiencies and immaturities in socialist economics, rather than the ideology itself, that were blighting state

Having established himself as a key manager in a rubber combine, he wrote to the Genbricht, appealing for more flexibility in the planned economy and called on the leadership to follow the looser Yugoslav economic model. This brought him a verbal Awarning from the party's disciplinarians.

His doubts about the system grew with the 1968 repression of the Prague uprising, but he

RUDOLF BAHRO



Bahro, left, at an emergency congress of the East German Communist Party in East Berlin in December 1989

had learnt not to waste his efforts in hopeless battles with authority, so he worked secretly for the next few years on his first and most important book, The Alternative: A Criticism of Socialism as it Really

The very title of this book. which appeared in the West in 1977, was a direct attack on the Communist Party's claim to have created "really existing socialism" in East Germany. The substance was an excoriating attack on the Communist Party's rule as a politbureaucractic dictatorship, and it was the more threatening to the authorities for being written from a Hegelian-Marxian point of view. Bahro called for an end to the Communist Party's monolithic power and for a revival of the "Third Way".

The Alternative was an important early contribution to Germany's environmental debate. It forged the link which remains powerful to this day — between conserva-tion and the neo-Marxist belief less it undertakes a "com-plete revolution in the way we live". Bahro preached a new approach to work, family life and political responsibility, calling for hierarchical social and political structures to be replaced by "grassroots democracy".

Coming one year after the forced exile of the songwriter Wolf Biermann, the book was a second major test for Erich Honecker, who had replaced Ulbricht as leader in 1971. promising to liberalise the intellectual climate. Once again, however, the regime chose to stifle protest.

Bahro was arrested for passing damaging information to an enemy power" and for breaches of secrecy - charges which enabled the public prosecutor to sentence him to eight years in jail. Later it emerged that his then wife had informed the secret police about his activities and that the Staatsicherheit had known for some time of his intention to publish the book but had waited to gather the most damaging charges against him. He was incarcerated in the notorious Bautzen jail, and all discussion of his

works was banned. Western protests ensured that he was freed a year later in one of Honecker's periodic amnesties for political prisoners. His lawyer throughout this period was Gregor Gysi. Democratic Socialism, successor to the Communist Party. After the collapse of East Germany, when Gysi was accused of passing information on his defendants' cases to the secret police. Bahro robustly defended him and complained that the new Germany was practising "victor's jus-

derstand that country's past. Bahro settled in West Germany, where he wrote hopeful articles about the imminent "schismatic split in the Marxist state religion". To his disappointment, that schism never materialised: the ideology of the East German Communist Party was not reviewed until the entire state edifice

Life in the West proved difficult for Bahro. He never ceased to have doubts about capitalism, and described the West as a "hollow, golden nut". In 1979 he was one of the co-founders of the Green Party, and he sat on its executive council until 1985, when he left, saying that the party was not radical enough. He turned his ire on the Greens in The Logic of Deliverance: Who Can Stop the Apocalypse? which accused his former comrades of being "almost more harmful than useful capitalism invented them to make itself look more

Germany, and failing to un-

came crashing down with the

Berlin Wall in 1989.

His rejection of capitalism took on an increasingly mystical air, and in the early 1980s he became a follower of the Bhagwan, settling into a contemplative life with other single-minded vegetarian environmentalists in a commune in the Eifel mountains.

The fall of the Wall reawakened his interest in the fate of

the tottering East Germany. He returned to East Berlin (where he was finally rehabilitated by the Communist Party). His old university, the Humboldt, offered him a post as head of a specially created institute for social ecology. He interpreted this rather eccentrically, calling on environmentalists to form secret cells in order to fight capitalism when revolutionary conditions next presented themselves. Bahro never lost his instinct for the provocative word or compelling gesture, endearing him to many who did not

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share his views. A diagnosis of leukaemia in 1995 meant he had to undergo chemotherapy, after which he withdrew to the isolated Uckermark and lived a spartan existence in a caravan. listening to Beethoven and Schubert and immersing himself in the literature of German Romanticism. With his intensity, spirituality, spontaneity and closeness to nature. he was in his way a model of the romantic hero. During his students, friends and admirers in his hospital room, where he

conducted informal seminars. His personal life was touched by tragedy. His second wife Beatrice committed suicide in 1993. He is survived by two daughters and a son from his first marriage and another daughter from his second.

RICHARD VERNON

Richard Vernon, actor. died on December 4 aged 72. He was born on March 7, 1925.

IN VIRTUALLY all the roles he played, Richard Vernon typified every foreigner's idea of an Englishman. Or rather one of those ideas. He himself remarked ruefully that he seemed to be confined to playing either extremely intel-ligent academics or very stupid senior officers. But, of course, there were many ways of portraying either sort of character and his performances never suggested that he was being typecast. As soon as the public set eyes upon him on a screen, large or small, they could relax, confident that, whether he was depicting a judge or a prime minister, a peer or a bishop, a general or a paterfamilias, he would play it with a straight bat and a stiff upper lip.

Admittedly, from time to time he was called upon to be outraged (as when John Lennon threw at him "Give us a kiss" in A Hard Day's Night) or explosive, but his true territory was that in which he was called upon to personify quiet decency surviving in trying circumstances, or to hint at the personal suffering behind the mask of authority. That authority he could assume by a sort of natural right, but he possessed a special gift for wearing it with

human warmth and charm. From near the beginning of his career he tended to play parts older than his years: it was thus entirely appropriate that he made his first appearance before the cameras at the age of 11 in Korda's curious mixture of drama and documentary. The Conquest of the

Richard Evelyn Vernon was born in Reading of an old naval family, educated at the Quaker Leighton Park and at Reading School, and as soon as he was able, in 1943, he enlisted in the RNVR. At the end of the war he was stationed in Hong Kong, and celebrated victory by producing, directing and starting in a production of Shaw's Heartbreak House for the local Combined Services Club.

His enthusiasm for amateur acting predictably led him to study drama once he was demobbed, and he entered the Central School of Speech and Drama. Like many of his several Wodehouse serialis- daughter.

Nicholas Polunin, CBE,

botanist, explorer

died in Geneva on

December 8 aged 88. He

was born in Checkendon, Oxfordshire, on

June 26, 1909.

modest, he claimed the dis-

tinction of being the last man

alive to have added major

islands to the world's map.

His accounts of his expedi-

tions sometimes ruffled aca-

demic feathers; but they were

written with an immediacy

and relish that more than

made up for an occasional

failure to acknowledge fully

Nicholas Polunin was the

son of an émigré Russian father and an English mother.

Educated at Latymer Upper

School and by private tutors,

he went to Christ Church,

Oxford, to read botany. His

first expedition was as the

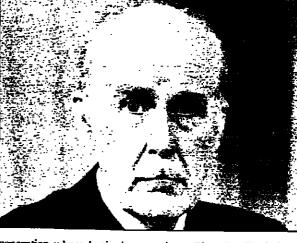
deckhand of a timber ship on

the White Sea, which he

published as Russian Waters

- with a foreword by John

the work of others.



generation whose beginnings were shaped by the war, he was a relatively late starter, first appearing on the professional stage in Ronald Duncan's play Stratton when he was 25. By the time he was 28 he had graduated to playing Mr Darling in Peter Pan at the Scala, with Evelyn Laye as Mrs Darling and Pat Kirkwood as Peter: already his seeming maturity was ruling his casting.

If he was generally playing older men when scarcely out of his twenties, at least they were always trim, attractive older men. He himself was tall and slim, handsome without being flashy, and usually equipped with a neat, vaguely military moustache. This suited perfectly his role as Charles Parkin, MP, in the longrunning boardroom drama Any Other Business (1958), but it also enabled him to fit neatly into cinematic contexts as various as Stanley Donen's sophisticated comedy Indiscreet, the thriller SOS Pacific. the nautical farce The Navy Lark, the last-ever Ealing film The Siege of Pinchgut, Basil Dearden's problem drama Sapphire, and the gruesome

During the 1960s he continued a busy professional life on stage, screen and radio, In the theatre he appeared in the West End (The Edwardians and the memorable 1968 revival of Hay Fever) and at the Royal Court. For the cinema he decorated the edges of such films as Joseph Losey's The Servant (1963), The Yellow Rolls-Royce and Goldfinger (both 1964). On radio he played Lord Emsworth in

science fiction Village of the

Damned - all in just over a

year, 1959-60.

ations. Though all of these roles were essentially variations on the same theme, he managed to make an individual effect in each.

But it was with television that he really came into his own and built a following. With his established qualities it was inevitable that he would figure in such series as Upstairs, Downstairs, Edward VII. The Duchess of Duke Street and, later, in Yes, Prime Minister. as well as John Mortimer's Rumpole of the Bailey and Paradise Postponed. Less probably, he played Slarubardast, galacuc inventor with waist-length hair, in the science-fiction comedy The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy (1981), and he seemed enormously to relish the change of pace though admittedly he was still, despite the disguise, play-ing a discreet intellectual.

His television fame brought him bigger and better roles on stage, notably when he took over from Laurence Olivier opposite Joan Plowright in Saturday, Sunday, Monday (1974), and when he played the faceless, insidious man from MI5 in Hugh Whitemore's Pack of Lies (1983). He also had substantial roles in a couple of drama-docs for BBC TV, as the judge in the Lady Chatterley's Lover trial and as Harold Macmillan in Ian Curteis's study Suez 1956. transmitted nearly 25 years after the event. He continued to act until 1995, when he fell victim to Parkinson's disease.

In 1955 he married a fellow actor, Benedicta Hoskins, whom he met playing in rep at Canterbury. The marriage was dissolved in 1989. He is

botany at Oxford, which he

left for McGill University after

his first marriage had broken

BARRY BROOK

tice" against the old East

Barry Brook, American musicologist, died in New York on December 6 aged 79. He was born on November 1, 1918.

BARRY BROOK was a leading figure in American and world musicology. Among his monuments are the many volumes of the Répertoire International de Littérature Musicale (the international annotated bibliography of scholarly writings about music): the Répertoire International d'iconographie Musicale, and, still to appear, the huge The Universe of Music: A History, which he organised

and edited. A first volume, dealing with the music of Latin America, is due next year, published by the Smithsonian Institution. "Man and his Music and The Music of Mankind" were working titles for the enterprise, but political correctness eventually banished the syllable "man" from the title as a condition of

public subsidy.

Barry Brook was born and brought up in New York. He gained his bachelor's degree (1939) at the City College of New York and his master's at Columbia University (1942). During the Second World War he was a captain in the United States Air Force, stationed in England, navigating over Germany, and awarded the DFC.

From 1945 he taught at Queen's College, and in 1967 founded the doctoral programme at the City University of New York, where he continued to teach generations of subsequently important scholars until his retirement in 1989 "Retirement" was but nominal; until nearly the end he remained a lively, eager force in his special fields. The West Side apartment of

Brooks and his wife Claire (a

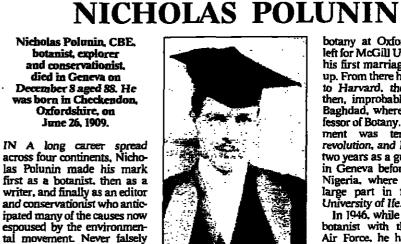
Nadia Boulanger pupil, then the music editor of Norton,

salon where composers. musicologists, performers, painters, writers, and critics met, in tall rooms where contemporary art mingled with old prints, exotic ethnic instruments, and a vast musical library. Other unexpected juxtapositions — Elliott Carter and Ned Rorem, Leonard Bernstein and Peter Maxwell Davies - might strike sparks but not, amid so warm a welcome, sparks of hostility. The apartment became a New York home for many visiting scholars, composers and performers.

Brook's links with France America's leading publisher of books about music) was a were close. He worked there often, and in 1942 was awarded a doctorate by the Sorbonne. His first big publication was La Symphonie française dans la seconde moitié du XVIII siècle (1959). In 1983 he created a new doctoral programme at the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris. Other special interests were Haydn, and in particular dis-

tinguishing the piano trios that Haydn really wrote from those attributed to him; and latterly Pergolesi, composer of perhaps one work in five of those ascribed to him in the 26 volumes of the old opera omnia. He established a Per-golesi Research Centre at City University and was editor-inchief of the new Pergolesi edition in progress. Determining and then organising truth was Brook's forte. A profound love of music in all its forms and of every age underpinned his researches.

He is survived by his wife, by two children of an earlier marriage, and by generations of pupils and disciples he inspired.



ion. Christopher d'Aeth, died of exposure on the island of Akpatok in the Hudson Strait. Oxford University Exploration Club had chosen to explore the island, and Polunin and d'Aeth set out from base camp for the furthest extremity of the island inadequately dressed. "If only I had brought a big compass and different

footwear." Polunin wrote later in The Isle of Auks, a record of the expedition which some found too light-hearted in the circumstances. Polunin left d'Aeth as comfortable as he could and struggled back to camp, but the rescue party was too late to save his companion. Polunin made many other

Buchan — in 1931. visits to Arctic and sub-Arctic regions in the role of botanist. That year a second expedi-From 1932 until 1947 he was tion ended tragically, when Polunin's friend and compandemonstrator and lecturer in

up. From there he went in 1952 to Harvard, then Yale, and then, improbably enough, to Baghdad, where he was Professor of Botany. This appointment was terminated by revolution, and Polunin spent two years as a guest professor in Geneva before arriving in Nigeria, where he played a large part in founding the University of Ife. In 1946, while working as a

botanist with the Canadian Air Force, he had helped to discover two islands in Foxe Basin, north of Hudson Bay which were later named Prince Charles Island. Air Force Island, and Foley Island (after the navigator of the aircraft). Polumin explored the area after being landed in a flying boat, and later recount-ed his experiences in Arctic Unfolding.

The final chapter of his life was in Geneva, where he settled in 1966. A long-time conservationist who had recognised from his researches the impact that man was having on the natural world. he launched a series of journals and societies, including the Foundation for Environmental Conservation. He was awarded many academic honours, and was appointed CBE

in 1976. He had one son by his first wife, and two sons and a daughter by his second.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

"A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE"

Start the Festive Season in The Times on 22nd December 1997 by sending colleagues, clients, friends, family and loved ones that Special Christmas Greeting and Happiness for the New Year.

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COURT & SOCIAL PORTECOMING MARRIAGES AND MARRIAGES

Over the Christmas period the following deadline will apply: Milmotics to appear on: nember 23rd, Wednesday December 24th, sember 26th, Saturday December 27th and Monday December 27th and must be received in writing by 5pm on Friday December 19th. Please send Court Page amountements by post/fix to firs J. Neepan, Court & Social Advertising, The Times, PO Ben 495, Virginia Street, London El 925.

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THE SHAFTESBURY THEATRE. "PETER PAN". By J.M. BARRIE.

Peter Pan - the entertainment, not, of course, "the boy wouldn't grow up" - comes of age this Christmas. Those who, like the present writer, saw the very first production of it and have never seen it again till yesterday afternoon, however much they may naturally hanker after a comparision of the two performances, will probably find the feat mpossible. At any rate, for our part we have the very vaguest recollections of the original cast, save Gerald du Maurier's Captain Hook and Nina Boucicault's Peter, and George Shelton's "pathetic Smee" and — oh, absolutely unforgetiable! - the Wendy of Hilda Trevelyan. We fancy, too, we remember a scene wherein Peter navigated the ocean in a bind's nest - which scene is no longer there and whose absence to-day we, therefore, feel bound bitterly to deplore. "Give us back our bird's nest!" we feel inclined to say to the hard-hearted author, as the objectors to the New Calendar cried "Give us back our if days !" And we confidently rely upon the support of Mr. Shelton, the sole survivor of the original cast, if only for "auld sake's sake"

- for, truth to tell, we entirely forget whether

ON THIS DAY

December 18, 1925

With some bizarre characters, such as a crocodile with an eight-day clock ticking inside him. Peter Pan was thought by some of Barrie's theatrical friends to be a certain disaster, but he, rightly, thought otherwise. Peter Pan "came of age" in 1925.

pathetic Smee was "on" in the scene in question, or, indeed, what the scene was about. Anyhow, we were cheered to see him again yesterday, as droll as ever and tearing across the sheetings for his sewing-machine

with the same old gusto.

The rest are new, but all in right Peter Pan tradition — which, of course, is a tradition of homely sincerity and tomboyish frolic and, generally, of the joy of not being grown up.
The new Peter, Miss Dorothy Dickson, is
delightfully boyish, capering through her part
as though it were all an immense lark and

dodging the sentimental bits as a true boy would. Miss Prudence Vanbrugh, the Mrs. Darling, naturally cannot dodge them (a bereaved mother without sentiment would never deserve to have her children restored to her!): nevertheless, she acquits herself with simplicity and charm. So does Miss Angela du Maurier, the Wendy, whose obvious inexperience counts here more for gain than for loss, and who can only be said not to provoke comparison with her famous predecessor because she is too young to have seen Miss Trevelyan in the part.

After these theatrical names a literary one -- Miss Audrey Lucas, who gives distinction to the modest part of Toolles. Mr. Lyn Harding is the Captain Hook of the occasion, a thrillingly sinister Captain Hook, a triumph of the grim-grotesque, and almost as uncanny as the same actor's terrifying steward in The Ordeal. (Incidentally, we missed the big splashes with which the Captain and his men used to be plunged headlong into the sea; the present splashes are nothing to them. "Give

us back our splashes !").

Of the real children, one naturally liked the youngest best. Little Brian Glennie was an adorable Michael, and Olive Drew's Liza was a marvel of half-impudent, half-demure

NEWS

Blair firm on welfare plan

■ Tony Blair told Labour MPs that internal revolts and fear of unpopularity would not deflect him from reforming the welfare state. He warned those upset by the cut in benefits for single mothers that there would be still harder decisions to come, and he attacked MPs who handed propaganda gifts to the

New embarrassment for Robinson

Geoffrey Robinson faced fresh embarrassment over his financial affairs when it was disclosed that he was reported to the Bank of England in 1980 on suspicion of breaching exchange control regulations. Sir Michael Edwardes, then chairman of BL, is understood to have expressed concerns that Mr Robinson may have moved tens of thousands of pounds...

Bombers' Christmas

Three IRA bombers, each a highrisk prisoner serving multiple life sentences at the Maze prison, are being allowed home for Christmas and the New Year Page I Shadow shuffle

William Hague shuffled his team after Labour protested at a Shadow Minister's links to a chain of nursing homes which they saidPage 2 paid low wages

Bookies catch cold

Sarwar in court

Bookmakers responded to the Siberian conditions by cutting the odds on a white Christmas from 4/1 to 2/1 despite forecasters' predictions that warmer weather was on the way... ..Page 3

Mohammed Sarwar, the suspended Labour MP for Glasgow Govan, appeared in court to face charges of election fraud, attempting to pervert the course of iustice... ... Page 4 Clark 'teased'

Alan Clark, the Conservative MP

and diarist, loves to be "naughty" and famous" but is not prepared to be teased by a newspaper, a court was told.

Private moments

Some of the public's most private moments are to be broadcast in a new spate of fly-on-the-wall docupopularity of "voyeuristic" ... Page 6

Betjeman love

A previously unknown poem dedicated by Sir John Betjeman to his unattainable love, Mylanwy Piper, has been discovered in a book on Sir John Soane.....Page 7

Dome secrecy

Peter Mandelson should spend more time answering MPs' questions about the Millennium Dome, according to a report attacking the secrecy surrounding the project. Injury fund

The Government is to create a

"public interest fund" to pay where the State has caused injury through negligence Page 12 Warm front

Flying in the face of scientific

research, millions of Russians, including some of their pets. are getting through the cold snap with the help of vodka Page 13

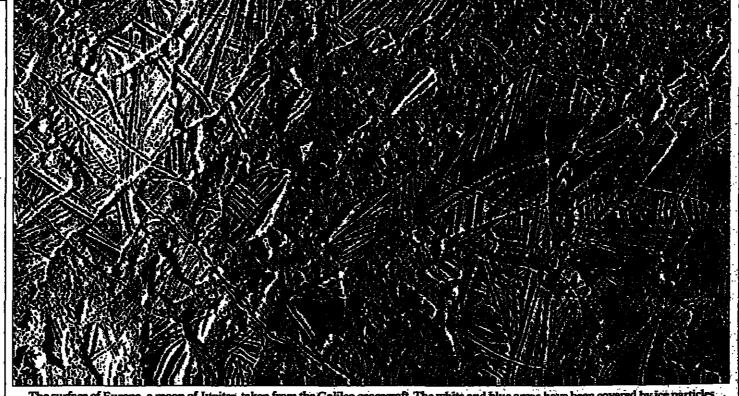
'Fatty' Jackal

Carlos the Jackal, on trial for triple murder in a Paris court, has angrily rejected suggestions that being nicknamed "Fatty" as a schoolboy set him on the path of international terrorism... Page 14 Guns in paradise

A long-running dispute between a Welsh expatriate couple and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda erupted in gunfire when mentaries to capitalise on the shots were fired in the office of the brother of the Prime Minister

Hague escapes from strippers

■ William Hague's arrival for his pre-wedding celebrations was delayed when three strippers showed him their charms on the doorstep of the Conservative Carlton Club. The Tory leader made a getaway as the girls shed fur coats and macs in front of him and his fiancée. The three women had been put up to the stunt by a cable television company ..



The surface of Europa, a moon of Jupiter, taken from the Galileo spacecraft. The white and blue areas have been covered by ice particles

Trains: Angel Trains, the money spinning rolling stock company born from the British Rail privatisation, is to change hands again. This time it is being sold on by a Japanese bank... ...Page 25

DUSINESS

Pay off: Richard Oster is to leave Cookson, the industrial group of which he is chairman, by mutual consent. He will receive a £2.9 million pay off.....Page 25

Healthcare: Guardian Royal Exchange is to pay £435 million for PPP, which has 28 per cent of the healthcare market... ____Page 25 Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 12.6

points to 5190.8. The trade-weighted sterling indexrose from 103.0 to 103.1 after rising from \$1.6335 to \$1.6457 and from DM2.9151 to DM2.9165. . Page 28 Football: Manchester United have been drawn against Monaco in the European Cup quarter-finals. In other competitions Chelsea play Real Betis and Aston Villa play Page 48 Atlético Madrid

17'08

Rugby union: English clubs are prepared to withdraw from the Heineken Cup, the leading competition in Europe, next season unless its structure is changed Page 48 Boxing: Kevin Kelley, facing Naseem Hamed at Madison Square Garden, cannot understand why a Brooklyn boxer should get second

billing to a Briton... Rugby league: The British amateur association has appointed Jackie Sheldon as its first national development officer for the women's game.

General: Flain will affect all parts

during the day, with any snow left over

the Scottish mountains soon dis-appearing. Western Scottand should be dry for a while, but most of the country will stay cloudy and damp, and some of the rain will be heavy. It

will be mild but windy. In southwest England and Wales, the rain will clear

to sunshine and scattered showers for the attempon. Later, cloud and rain will clear eastwards from all parts, with scattered showers following on west-em coasts and mist and fog forming.

Cl London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N England, NE England: mostly dull and wet with outbreaks of ain some heavy. There will be a tresh

rain, some heavy. There will be a tresh to strong southeasterly wind. Much milder than recently, max 11C (52F).

Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales, N Wales: heavy rain and strong winds will clear eastwards during the morning. The afternoon will

be bright with scattered showers. A

Alone again: Heading the week's movie releases is Home Alone 3, now with a new leading man-child, but with all the same old formatted

may judge Andy Warhol, the giant of Pop Art, a new show in Dublin suggests that for the present we are still impressed. Lads' lass: Since singer Louise

Souped up: However the future

went solo she has pulled off a marketing tour de force which makes her a favourite with children, mums, dads and the libidinous . Page 36

Winter wonderland: At the Birmingham Repertory Theatre they're basking in the warm glow of a £5.7 million Arts Council windfall. How it will be spent. ...Page 37

Medical report: Dr Thomas Stuttaford reports on red wine, smoking, sleeping policemen, scanners and the Two Fat Ladies.......Page 18 Shalom: The murder of an Israeli

soldier by Hamas led his mother to a peace mission Page 19 Not forever. Diamonds and a material girl can spell trouble at the end of an affair...

Numbers drain: Why do accountants fail to take senior managements to task for their perfor-_ Page 33

Life-enhancing: Times reviewers discuss the books that have most influenced them ____Pages 38, 39

The US should not get involved in the broadening of the EU because it has never understood anything of Brussels complicated business. It is probably furthering its own interests and views European politics from a militaristic strategic stand-

Laurent Kabila of Congo

Preview: Is there a human cost to animal conservation? Scare Stories (BBCZ, 9.25pm). Review Joe Jo seph on what it takes to be PromenaderPages 44. 47

Our island story

As we approach the millen history, of all disciplines, should be our protection against those who see only one meral in our islant

Imprudent Prudential

Embarrassment is no longer an effective sanction in the City There is barely a major insurance company that has not been named: and shamed by its legal regulator....

High spirits

To a Russian, vodka has almog mythical qualities, and the greater the amount on hand, the larger the

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

The Franco-German alliance is a marriage in which Marianne may lack the physical strength but still wears cultural trousers Page 20 FRANK PROCHASKA

Denying tax exemptions to all charitable institutions would mean that many would close, and others. would never emerge ... PETER RIDDELL

The Neill committee on Standards: in Public Life is asking the right questions about party funding. But the consulative paper issued yesterday underlines how hard it will be to produce answers which command cross-party support. Page 10 JOHN BRYANT

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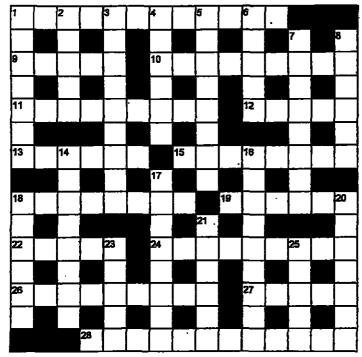
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):_...

Sport has always had its helping offat boys and, as long as they have: been able to produce great performances, they have been loved and respected by players and spectators ...Page 45 alike.

Rudolf Bahro, Marxist intellectual: Richard Vernon, actor: Nicholas Polumin, explorer; Barry Brook, musicologist... _ Page 28

Welfare benefits; labour rebels; recovering those lost at sea; EU op. tion for Turkey and Cyprus: working for Maxwell; Britannia;



I Did they pursue the head of the

- arch-criminals? (8.4). 9 Run he scrambled as India's key
- man once (5). 10 Repetitive notes about a private conversation (4-1-4).
- 11 Liquor and other drink found in part of Manchester (9). 12 Mussorgsky's first trio one combined with Schubert's second,
- possibly (5). 13 TV series cost one million when broadcast? (6).
- 15 Sound of some learful demon bidden to appear (8). 18 Early indication of spring ava-
- lanche (8) 19 The antithesis of fast food in France? (6).
- 22 American rejected his awful foreign cuisine (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,665

24 Improvise and store fruit outside (4,2,3). 26 Give rough treatment to crew

beside hold (9). 27 Spirit is what makes reception a

success, we hear (5). 28 French playwright taking tea in Welsh castle (12).

DOWN

I Cows have little relative movement (7). 2 Throwing out hooray after getting rid of right lout (5).

3 In front end of Jumbo, travelled, say, a major route (5,4). 4 Plant turning out car for race (6). 5 Stop what you're doing and save crossword for later? (3,2,3).

Hymn initially sung in token of victory (5).

Some brothels in king's city (8). 8 Prepared for safe winter flight, decide to take off (6). 14 A lot of free handouts (8).

16 Extremely neat French type of wine after second European summit (4,5). 17 Ceremony I carry out with university's former president (8).

18 Edible plant used for entree (6). 20 Extra vestment keeping ice off us 21 Equipment for producing pic-

tures arrived with artist (6). 23 Showing anger that's about deserter (5).

25 Essayist penning final letter for

flower-girl (5). Times Two Crossword, page 48

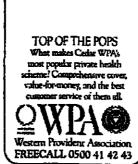
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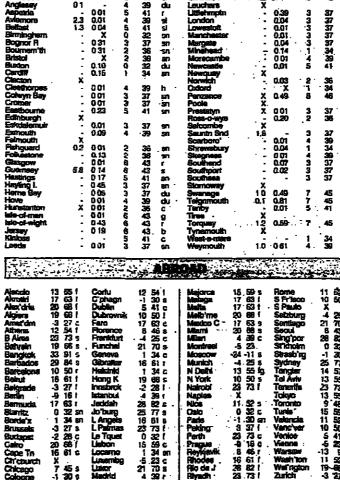
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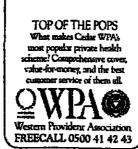
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HOMEST & LOWEST



1 34 0



■ MEDIA

One hour of Men is the Christmas TV

■ EDUCATION Will the Schools Bill really give parents a voice in their children's education?

IN THE TIMES

TOMORROW

Behaving Badly? Why schedule so bad?

strong southeast wind will veer mod-

strong southeast wind will veer moc-erate southerly. Much milder than recently, max 13C (55F).

Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyli: mostly dull and overcast with outbreaks of

rain, some heavy. A strong south-easterly wind, Mild, max 10C (50F),

I Moray Firth, NE Scotland, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: it will be mainly dry to begin, but rain will spread from the south later and any snow on the hills will be short-lived.

There will be a strong to gale force southeasterly wind. Max 9C (48F).

In Ireland: heavy rain will clear

from the east during the morning and sunshine and showers will follow. A strong southeasterly wind will veer fresh southerly. Max 10C (50F).

Republic of ireland: heavy rain clearing during the morning then

milder with sunny intervals and a few showers. Wind moderate, south-easterly. Max 11C (52F). Outlook: relatively mild but un-

settled, with showers and sunshine.

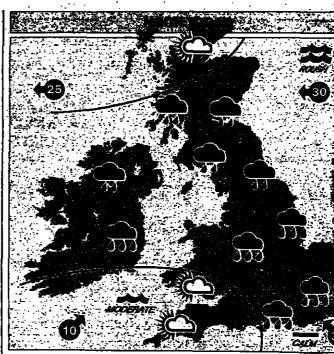
AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

- Sueddeutsche Zeitung

Though Madeleine Albright's visit to Africa demonstrated American interest and broadly defended democratic principles, she too often glossed over the abusive practices of leaders she met, most notably

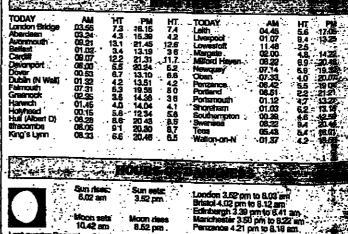
- The New York Times

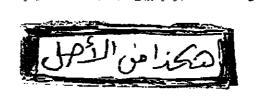
beef; opera committee.......Page 21



Changes to the chart below from noon: high S will continue to decline; lows and N will remain slow-moving; lows P and R will drift northeast







INSIDE SECTION



BUSINESS

Graham Searjeant on the eclipse of the rising sun **PAGE 29**



ACCOUNTANCY

Where do the figures people think they are going? **PAGE 33**



SPORT

United set fair for France in European Cup quarter-finals **PAGES 41-48**

TELEVISION AND **RADIO**

> **PAGES** 46, 47

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY DECEMBER 18 1997.

Royal Bank buys leasing group

Angel Trains earns £400m for Nomura

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

NOMURA International is to make a profit of almost £400 million on the sale of Angel Train Contracts, the privatised rolling stock leas-ing company, it emerged

Nomura and its consortium partners, who acquired Angel from the Government just over two years ago, is selling the business to the Royal Bank of Scotland for £395 million.

Although Nomura paid the Government £696 million, it is understood to have subsequently earned some £690 million through securitisation of existing leasing contracts, giv-ing a "clean" profit of £389 million on yesterday's disposal.

John Prideaux, a former.

British Rail director, is expected to earn £15 million for his 5 per cent shareholding in the consortium. Dr Prideaux, a train built who is thought to have midde some £50 million have made some £50 million after selling most of his stake in Angel last year, is expected to remain with the company.

<u>بر جر</u>

L. TERRE

Dr Prideaux, an author of iasts and a former managing director of British Rail's InterCity division, was once the three rolling stock compa-British Rail, but he left the wear. As well as Eversholt's nationalised industry after purchase by Forward Trust, clashing with fellow directors for £726 million, the third leasurer plants for the Channel ing company. Porterbrook, Tunnel rail link.

Noming has an 85 per cent, stake in Angel. The rest is held by Babcock & Brown, the US consulting engineering firm The move by Royal Bank marks a direct attempt to



Prideaux: wealthy train buff

challenge Forward Trust, the leasing arm of HSBC Holdings, which bought another train leasing company, Eversholt early this year. Angel owns about 3,000 of the 11,000 trains belonging to the finree leasing companies set up before privatisation.

The Royal Bank is anxious to expand its leasing activities. having previously jointly in-anced rolling stock for London Underground's Northern Line in 1995, and has investments The purchase marks the lat-

est in a round of acquisiions of nies which were privatised last ing company, Porterbrook, was bought in September last year by Stagecoach, coach and train operator, for £825 mil-Jion. The purchase was almost £300 million more than the company's management paid seven months earlier when the

mystical right to the money."

... The move comes after a year

of increasing internal strife at

the firms, which have sought

to stick together under Ander-sen Worldwide. The friction has been fuelled by the phe-nomenal growth of Andersen

Andersen Consulting has

erbrook, prompting wide-spread accusations that rolling stock had been sold too cheaply by a Conservative Government anxious to com-

plete railway privatisation before the general election.

Dr. George Mathewson,
chief executive of the RoyalBank Group, said yesterday:
This is a significant acquisition which offers a number of exciting opportunities. It will have an immediate positive impact on our group earnings per share and return on equity and will be funded from our own resources without recourse to shareholders."

However, rail industry observers are increasingly sceptical about the future profitability of rolling stock leasing companies, which are

believed by many to have had their best period during the early months of privatisation.

Although the companies are not under regulatory control, ministers have called the sale the last great train robbery. and made clear their intention to take a tougher hold on them when new regulation of the industry is introduced under a

rau aumomy. lain Robinson, manging director of the Royal Bank's corporate and institutional banking arm, insisted that there remained a strong future for the leasing companies, Significant investment in new, railway rolling stock will be required over the next ten vears as passenger demand grows on the back of the Goyernment's stated intention of developing rail travel, he said.

Commentary, page 27



Cookson chairman goes with £2.9m payoff

RICHARD OSTER, the highly paid American who has run Cookson Group for the past six years, is to be paid £2.9 million in compensation after boardroom disagreements cost him his job - less than three months since he moved up from chief executive to chairman.

Cookson, which makes speciality chemicals and other materials used in industry. said friction arose when Stephen Howard, who took over as chief executive in October, drew up plans for disposals and for scaling down the com-pany's US office in Rhode Island.

Bob Malpas, who has re-turned as an interim chair-

The targets we set are very demanding, while many companies routinely pay out 30 per cent to 40 per cent as bonuses, which are as easy to collect as putting your tie on in the morning. Richard Oster, in April 1995, defending his £1.25 million pay package

man, said: "The future was looking as though it would be rather uncomfortable for the

board and for Richard." Cookson, which has paid million over the past four years, defended the settlement it had agreed. Mr Malpas said Mr Oster had sought even more under a fixed three-year contract that he entered into

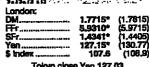
only last March. Mr Oster is credited with turning Cookson round since it was in severe difficulties in 1990. But the company's profits collapsed last year. The shares rose 7p to 1962 p.

Commentary, page 27

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET

100	5190.8 3.13%	(-12.6)
All share	2427.06	(-4.46)
i York:	_	
Jones Composite	7987.50 (- 970.32	+11.19)* (+2.26)*
		•



MORTH SEA OIL Brent 15-day (Mar) \$17.60 (\$17.45)

London close \$287.05 (\$285.25) * denotes midday trading price

Jobless fall

Unemployment fell by a further 21,000 during November to 1,442,100, the lowest for 17 years. The jobless total peaked five years ago at 1.539 million. The overall seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 5.1 per cent, again the lowest since 1980. Page 26

Thamesport

Rutland Trust, the miniconglomerate, yesterday sold Thamesport, the deepwater container terminal on the Isle of Grain, Kent, for £112 million to Hutchison, the Hong Kong ports giant. Page 30, Tempus 28

Dispute threatens to split Andersen

BY ROBERT BRUCE

ANDERSEN WORLDWIDE, behaved as though they have a the world's biggest professional services organisation, looks certain to be split asunder by a buter dispute between its accountancy and consulting In a flurry of bitter recrime to resolve the dispute.

nations, Andersen Consulting has taken the first steps to wards separating from Arthur. Andersen, the accountants. Andersen Consulting is furious at the amount of revenue it

hands over to Arthur Ander-sen. More than \$100 million (£60 million) was passed across last year under a part-nership agreement dominated. by Arthur Andersen / White controls the board of Andersen Worldwide Vernon Ellis. Andersen Consulting's man-aging director, Europe, Middle East, Africa and India. said: "Arthur Andersen have

ointment for retailers.

cited serious breaches of con-tract and inacconcilable differ-ences with Arthur Andersen. The firm wants an arbitrator sales down 29 per cent, which analysts blamed on recent mild weather.

Consulting, a separate business unit since 1989 Arthur Andersen itself has moved aggressively into the consultaries business, triggering the current bust-up. This week almost 1,000 Andersen Consulting partners voted for arbitration. Accountancy, page 33

Falling sales raise fears for retailers

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

HIGH STREET sales growth slowed sharply in November, raising fears that the Christmas shopping season may prove a disapp-

Retail sales fell 0.4 per cent in November, cutting the annual rate of growth to 4.8 per cent from 6.4 per cent in October. The largest falls took place in the clothing and footwear sector, with

However, in a clear signal that windfall spending has declined dramatically. household goods sales fell 3.7 per cent in the quarter — the largest fall in more than ten years. The Office for National Statistics said the quarterly rate fell to 0.2 per cent, the lowest figure for two years. Commentary, page 27

GRE pays £560m for PPP Healthcare Group

By MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

change, the insurance company, is buying PPP Healthcare Group, the secand-largest private medical insurer. GRE is paying £435 million in cash, with the vendors also receiving a £125 million dividend from PPP, making a total of £560 million. PPP has a 30 per cent share

of the health insurance market and is owned by a charity. The payment, which includes goodwill of E141 million, will go straight to the charity — the PPP Healthcare Medical Trust. GRE beat off competition from GE Capital and Halifax to complete the deal.

Although GRE said the deal gave it a very significant planform in the UK private medical insurance market", it acknowledged that sales over the past few years had been

GUARDIAN Royal Ex- flat Derek Rome, director of corporate affairs, said: "Growth was indeed faster in the 1980s and the removal of tax relief in the last Budget caused some people to lapse. However, according to our estimate, the total market will grow from premium income of £1.7 billion to £2.1 billion by

> John Robins, GRE chief executive, said: "We are determined that the group will be a leader in the sector in the UK and selected overseas markets."

Bupa, PPP's rival healthcare provider, has a market share of about 45 per cent in the UK. PPP has spent £10 million in the past two years on a brand marketing campaign directed as much at the City and potential buyers as prospec tive policyholders. In spite of

this outlay, PPP healthcare showed a profit before tax of £84 million for the first nine months of this year, of which £67 million was from investment gains. Its net asset value was £419 million.

By integrating the Guard-ian Health division into PPP, GRE expects to make annual cost savings of £14 million. About 100 jobs are expected to be lost. The acquisition is expected to bring returns from

GRE said that overall UK trading conditions were tough, particularly in the area of large property losses, including a single loss of 15 million on a fire claim in October. These factors will be reflected in trading results for the year ending December 31.

Tempus, page 28

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Flying the flag. Glen Floddle, the England coach bargain market, where NPC is traded,

NPC plans demerger as flotation postponed

again, and is to demerge Green Flag, its vehicle breakdown business. NPC, which is 73 per cent owned by its founders, Ronald Hobson and Sir Donald Gosling, was planning to float next year - 23 years on from its first attempt to come to the stock market. But it has now decided that a demerger of Green Flag is the first priority for maximising share-

NATIONAL Parking Corporation, the owner of National Car Parks, has

postponed its stock market flotation yet

holder value. Bob Mackenzie, chief executive, said NPC intends to demerge Green Flag in the first half of next year. Its shares will initially trade on the Ofex matched

BY PAUL DURMAN

but the intention is to eventually proceed to a full market listing.

NPC believes Green Flag, sponsor of

the England football team, has good potential to grow beyond its existing turnover of £140 million a year, particularly by moving into plumbing and other non-motor help services. NCP is more mature, although Mr Mackenzie sees opportunities in expanding overseas and in UK local authorities seeking to limit on street parking.

Mr Mackerizie said the demerger plans were not intended to realise money for Mr. Hobson and Sir Donald. He pointed out that NPC has in the past two years paid two special dividends totalling £225 million, of which about £162 million went to the now

elderly founders. This year's interim dividend rises 20 per cent to 3p a share. NPC, whose confusing name will eventually disappear, has shelved plans

to float NCP. Mr Mackenzie said the US parking market is undergoing considerable change and parts of Europe are also starting to look encouraging. NPC reported a 25.5 per cent in its interim

pre-tax profits to £26 million on turnover 4.2 per cent higher at £183.9 million. Part of the 17.3 per cent improvement in operating profits to £29.9 million was because of a change in depreciation policy. Promotional spending on Green Flag

left its profits flat.

Commentary, page 27

Kunick adds to

the Midas touch

KUNICK, the leisure management group, yesterday report. ed a 17 per cent rise in pre-tax profits for the year to September 30, from £9.1 million to £10.6 million, on turnover

of £131 million, up 10 per cent from £119 million. Earnings per

share were 2p. up 33 from 1.5p. and a total dividend of 0.25p. up from 0.7p. will be paid on March 3.

The company said that it continued to invest in Midas, its

remote electronic machine management system, and in

improvements to local authority leisure facilities. It added

that growth was expected to be maintained in the year ahead

RICHARDS, the textiles group, suffered a £1.57 million loss in the year to September, against a £2.37 million loss in the

previous year. A total dividend of 2.0p, unchanged, is to be

paid despite losses of 7.22p a share, against 10.63p in the

previous year. Brian Gilhert, the septuagenarian chairman, is to stand down at the annual meeting. Ray Dinsdale, the 59.

year-old chief executive, also intends to stand down as soon

as possible". Richards said the changes had been planned

Lands Improvement falls

SHARES in Lands Improvement fell 18p to 905p after the

property group said its full-year profits would be substantial-

y below market forecasts. A sharp deterioration in returns

from the farming operation was blamed along with a

provision to write down the company's leisure park to its

estimated net realisable value. Directors now expect not less than £500,000 before tax for 1997 and expect to pay an

unchanged total dividend of 4.75p. Farming losses of at least fi million are expected after reorganisation costs of £600,000.

Engineers unprepared

EEF, the organisation that represents employers in the engineering industries, said yesterday the vast majority of

engineering firms were wholly unprepared for economic and

monetary union. An EEF survey suggests that only one in ten firms have made definite plans for EMU. EEF leaders

accepted that preparing for EMU was so far "not an

immediate concern", but insisted this was primarily because

of a lack of clarity on the issue from the Government and an

Delphi postponement

DELPHI GROUP, the computer software and services com-

unclear target date for the UK's participation.

for some time. The shares remained unchanged at 331 p.

Richards reduces loss

and that prospects were encouraging.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

reveals aims for Springer empire

By RAYMOND SNODDY MEDIA EDITOR

GUS FISCHER, the new chairman and chief executive of Axel Springer. Europe's largest publishing group, is planning radical change at the company to increase efficiency, invest more in group titles and make it a more international company.

Mr Fischer, an executive of German-Swiss origin based in the UK and who is former chief executive of News International, publisher of The Times, will take over at the German

group on January i. "I didn't want to get involved but they didn't let up and in the end I caved in." says 58-year-old Mr Fischer, who left News International two

years ago. Before his resignation. he was also chief operating officer of News Corporation, the parent company of News International.

Mr Fischer explained yesterday that he had three main goals for the German publishing group, which has a cash pile of around DMS00 million (£275 million).

"I am going to have to look at the (publishing) process. There are more than 12,000 employees in Germany alone," said Mr Fischer, who was well known at News International for his intention to the detail of costs.

In particular. German print unions are still much more powerful than their UK equivalents and are now likely to have to face a process of modernisation. Axel Springer's interests

range from Bild Zeitung and Die Welt to Der Spiegel magazine, apart from many regional

Mr Fischer said he plans to invest some of the savings from greater efficiencies in the products which he believes have become rather conservative in design

appearance. We will have to look very carefully at all the products," said Mr Fischer, whose career has included running paper equipment companies in the US.

The third challenge, he said, is to make Axel Springer, whose media interests are largely confined to the Germanspeaking world, more international.

Media investments in the UK were even a possibility. "It is a market I know

well," said Mr Fischer, who plans to keep his house in London, although much of his working life in future will be spent commuting between Hamburg and Berlin, the two centres of the Axel Springer empire.

Berlin, in particular, he

believes, is going to be the capital of Middle Europe. The new chairman and chief executive of Axel Springer would also like to try to ensure that Die Welt is " the number one German language paper in the

Ministers urge pay restraint as unemployment hits 17-year low

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government yesterday said wage moderation was "essential" for the health of the economy as unemployment fell by a further 21,000 and earnings growth remained stable. The clear call by ministers

underlines concern in Whitehall that falling unemployment threatens an upsurge in inflation. However, ministers also insisted that the latest decline in unemployment was beneficial for jobseekers and for the economy generally.

The renewed pressure for wage moderation came as the number of people out of work and claiming benefit fell in November to 1,442,100. The drop takes the seasonally adjusted claimant count to its lowest level for 17 years, and takes the overall fall in unemployment since its peak five years ago to 1.539 million.

in all regions, and for both men and women. Unadjusted unemployment — the actual number of people out of work and claiming benefit - was down 45,184 to 1,387,649. The overall

Candover

fund brings

in £850m

By Jason Nissé

CANDOVER Investments,

the venture capital house,

yesterday raised £850 million

for its latest investment fund

E200 million more than it

had projected when the fund

More than half the money

has come from US investors, 27

per cent from UK fund mana-

gers and 13 per cent from

continental Europe. Candover

expected to invest about two-

thirdsin the UK, with the rest

The strong response comes

after the success of Candover's

two previous funds. The 1989

fund has already repaid all its

investors with a handsome

profit and the 1994 fund has

already returned 72 per cent of

Stephen Curran, chief executive, said the size of the new

fund would give Candover greater flexibility. "We can now

underwrite £200 million of

SHARES in Oasis suffered

their sharpest one-day fall

yesterday after the fashion

retailer gave warning that

stiff competition and slug-gish high street sales would

force its profits below mar-

The shares dropped 56p to

130p — falling below the 165p

flotation price for the first time

— as analysts said the clothing

chain is heading for its first profits decline.

The shares now stand at 30 per cent of their 4212p high.

Eight months ago, the direc-tors sold around £5.8 million

of shares at around the 400p

Michael Bennert, chairman.

sold £1 million of shares at

400p only weeks before the

Maurice Bennett, his broth-

er and deputy, sold £3.2 mil-

shares tumbled to 200p.

ket expectations.

Tempus, page 28

equity in a deal on our own."

the £307 million it raised.

in France and Germany.

was launched in June.

seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell marginally to 5.1 per cent - again the lowest since 1980.

Whitehall suggested that the figures were consistent with a downward trend in unemployment towards the middle of the Office for National Statistics estimate of a fall of 15.000 to 35,000 a month. The latest monthly fall came as

THE JAPANESE Government yesterday un-

veiled a plan to pay an income tax rebate of 2

trillion yen (£9.8 billion) in a bid to kick-start

the country's flagging economy. Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, the Finance Minister.

said the rebate would form part of a package of economic stimulus measures — worth a total of

about 5 trillion yen (£24.5 billion) - which

should be finalised by the end of the week. The unexpected tax cut was warmly wel-comed in the markets, with the Nikkei 225

index surging 5 per cent to close at 16,816.68.

the Bank of Japan intervened in the market for

The battered yen also received a boost after

average earnings growth remained stable, with underlying earnings rising 4.25 per cent in the year to October, the same level as September, and indeed for the past six months, though manufacturing industry earnings ticked up a quarter of a point after revisions to last month's figures.

The figures prompted min-

Japanese moves welcomed

By Alasdair Murray, economics correspondent

sponsibility over wages. While welcoming the fall in unemployment as "good news for those moving into jobs and for the economy", Andrew Smith, the Employment Minister. said: "Moderation in earnings growth is essential if economic growth is to continue delivering extra jobs and not just higher earnings for those al-

the first time in five years. Dealers believe the

BoJ sold about \$1 billion, beloing the yen to-

The stimulus measures boosted markets else-

abroad. The US described the package as "good

for Japan and good for the whole Asian region".

expected to prove short-lived, with economists

in the coming weeks.

prize of sustainable growth and lower unemployment depends on keeping inflationary pressures firmly under control." But ministerial calls were somewhat undercut by an analysis of labour market statistics by Whitehall economists, who said: There is no sign of a take-off in pay settlements and retail and producer price inflation are low, though 'core' inflation is marginally above

the Government's target." Ministers said that stillhigh unemployment among men and especially among young people showed the importance of the Welfare to Work programme, with David Blunkett, Education and Employment Secretary. yesterday announcing a further 14 employers signing up

climb from Y13L8 against the dollar to Y125.85. where in Asia and received support from to the New Deal. Employment rose 73,000 in Economists welcomed the package as a step in the right direction, but cautioned that the e quarter to September by to 26,595,000, separate new figures showed yesterday. But further new data showed re-Japanese economy was still a long way from recovery. The rise in the value of the yen is dundancies continuing, with 187,000 people made redundant predicting it will head towards 140 to the dollar in the three months to August.

MARTIN O'NEILL, chairman of the Commons Trade and Industry Select Commit-tee, yesterday launched a stinging attack on Richard Budge, chief executive of RIB Mining, accusing him of mismanagement.

Mr O'Neill, who in the new year will publish the committee's report on the future of coal, said the recent crisis would not have reached the state it had if it had not been for RJB's handling of contract negotiations. He told a Coalfield Communities Campaign meeting: The crisis was caused by the ineptitude of RJB . . . they only have a handful of customers and they seem to have offended all of them."

But he also chincised the electricity generators in what could signal break-up recommendations in the committee's report. Mr O'Neill told the meeting of miners, union leaders and MPs that National Power and PowerGen - the two biggest generators owned too many coal-fired power stations and more independent players should be brought in. He said: "The generating companies are going to have to be broken up." He said they were an important piece in the coal

tricity price-setting.

Market report, page 28

problems are specific to the

company itself. It has had

trouble with its range and if

you lose the grip even a little bit that can have disastrous

The company denied that

the directors had capitalised

on the top of the market.

pointing out that they sold

within weeks of being released

from their handcuff deal that

flotation.

prevented any disposals within the first two years of

The Bennett brothers and

Mr Scott still hold 33 per cent

of the company's shares be-

Oasis is now expected to

make a pre-tax profit of £13

million for the year to January 31, against £15.6 million profit

Chairman of select committee **blames** Budge

INDUSTRIAL

jigsaw but that there was no effective competition in elec-

The generators this week agreed to a government-brokered deal to take coal orders early to ensure that RIB could maintain production until the end of June. Mr O'Neill told the meeting that Mr Budge had made "grave mistakes" and that while the coal industry had been mismanaged when it was in state ownership "in certain areas of private ownership it has been mismanaged in different ways".

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

pany, has been advised to postpone its American placing on the Nasdaq market until the first quarter of 1998. Rapid deterioration in market conditions for new issues in America is blamed. Shares in Delphi fell 24 p to 690p. Tony Reeves, chairman and chief executive, said: "We have decided to postpone the issue until conditions are more favourable. Our commitment to the pursuit of the company's US growth strategy remains firm and we will push ahead with it by all means available to us."

Byatt plans to get tough

IAN BYATT, the water regulator, yesterday said that he would get tough on water companies that were slow to cut operating costs. Mr Byatt delivered his warning, linked to the next price review, after figures from Ofwat showed that operating costs across the industry had fallen 6 per cent over the past four years. He said: "Companies that are relatively less efficient can expect commensurately tougher targets on operating costs." The next pricing curbs for water will start in 2000, but Mr Byatt has started drafting plans for the review.

Barclays strike called off

A PLANNED strike by Barclays Bank workers on Christmas Eve has been called off after an agreement to hold fresh talks on a long-running pay dispute. Members of Bifu and Unifi. the unions, had been due to walk out next week in the latest in a series of 24-hour stoppages in protest at a performancerelated pay scheme. But the strike was called off yesterday after an offer from the bank to hold talks. Barclays said that, after "constructive discussions" with the unions, a way forward had now been agreed.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-680 6878 OR FAR-0171-481 9313

0171-782 7344

Stephen Curran, chief executive, left, with Colin Buffin, a fellow Candover director

this season's autumn/winter

Verdict Research disagreed

He said: "The high street is not

doing as badly as people are

suggesting. A lot of Oasis

Richard Perks, analysts at

range from Oasis.

Oasis plunges after warning

By Fraser Nelson

lion of shares at 400p and and had nothing to do with

OASIS STORES: DRYING UP

APRIL 17

David Sarsan sell

Vivian Scott, managing direc-

tor, raised 385p a share selling

The company said yester-

day that its problems were entirely related to a general

slowdown in the high street -

Lynn Burstall sells £200,000 at 401p

a £385.000 stake.

APRIL 16

LEGAL NOTICES PUBLIC NOTICES LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

Wace chief to leave as dividend hopes fade

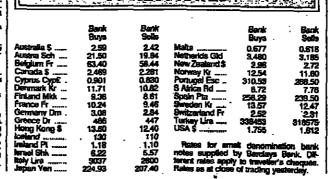
By MARTIN BARROW

TREVOR GRICE is stepping down as chief executive of the troubled Wace Group, the imaging and printing group. The company, which continstructuring, also said there is "no reasonable prospect" of a dividend being paid this year. Mr Grice will stand down on March 31, although he will act as a consultant to the printing divisions under a three-year agreement. He was appointed chief executive in 1992. The company made a

profit in each of the next three years, but plunged back into the red in 1996 with a £2 million loss on sales of £323 million. This year Wace shares have fallen from 1052p and were down another 1'2 p at

24p yesterday.
The company has agreed revised debt facilities with its lenders, incurring exceptional costs of £2 million to charge against this year's profits. There will also be a £2 million exceptional charge against

TOURIST RATES



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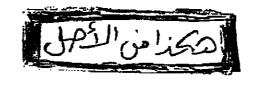
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RATION

alists " inan: 19

hen on the opposition benches, the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, was a virulent opponent of rail privatisation. How right he was? In hindsight, the last administration succeeded in delivering a main plank of the transport infrastructure into pribecoming more and more appar-ent. Angel Trains—the third and the apparently most keenly priced of the rolling stock leasing companies (Roscos)—yesterday passed from the hands of Nomura, its original buyer, to Royal Bank of Scotland, delivering a

E389 million profit in the process. That represents a compound return of 25 per cent a year. And, if you take account of the financial engineering that Nomura was able to bring to bear to the deal, the pure profit can be seen as 65,000 per cent of the risk capital. A nice deal by anyone's

share price due to the interven-tion of the rail regulator, John Swift, it has delivered a 50 per-cent return to investors in little more than 18 months of trading

This Angel isn't heavenly

هكذامن رلإمل

There are many reasons for why the rail network was sold so vate hands for a knockdown cheaply And Prescott has to take price. How knockdown is only his share of the blame. In opposition he always threatened to moravel privarisation once Labour was elected, so delivering what is called in the market regulatory risk". This promise has not been fulfilled, prompting, among other things, the massive outperformance of Raitrack since May 1. But the threat pushed down prices and frightened away investors. The other person who should be blamed is John Major. He man-

anyone in the industry expected, so allowing the privatisation pro-cess to get closer to completion than many involved in the process was Eversholt and Porterbrook

Rail, Stagecoach, Virgin Trains, stricted in what it might be able to do about renationalisation on the recent fall in the thar price due to the recent fall in the tion of the control o doing. The regulatory review Swift published last week indicated that the new regime will be much more strict when



the rail companies are allowed to take. Rail fares will be kept in check. Subsidies will be cut. The good times may well be over.

So is this a good time for Royal Bank to buy into rail leasing? It beat off a bid from GE Capital. the world expert in this area. aged to hang on to power for a which was unhappy that it crucial few months longer than missed out on a Rosco the first missed out on a Rosco the first time around. This indicates that Royal Bank has payed over the top for a business with declining

Oster rich thanks to Cookson crew

For all the many, many hours that highly paid people have spent drawing up corporate governance codes, one has to wonder whether any real progress has been made. Today's lesson comes from Cookson Group. Richard Oster. be much more strict when the all-American chairman determining what rate of return familiarly described as a cigar-

chomping former college football star, has "mutually agreed" with his board room colleagues that the industrial materials company would be much better off without him. To ease the pain of parting, Oster has been given £2.9 million of shareholders' money to keep him company back home in Rhode Island.

Now, despite Cookson's dis-mal share price performance over the last two years, this is not strictly a reward for failure. Cookson looked in danger of going under before Oster took over back in 1991. But he has already been amply rewarded, being paid £1 million or more in each of the lest four years. each of the last four years.

What should really stick in investors' craws is that Oster only signed a new three-year contract last March — only a few months before he moved from chief executive to chairman. Not one of life's natural non-executives, Oster found the transition difficult, particularly when the new chief executive made moves to offload some of Oster's pet businesses and scale down the US head office, which just hap pens to be in Rhode Island. Cookson portrays this as a friendly disagreement but it was sufficiently concerned to call back the only recently departed Bob Malpas, 70, as an interim

chairman.

Why, when most big companies are adopting 12-month contracts, did Malpas agree to Oster's new three-year deal so chostly before a fundamental shortly before a fundamental change in his responsibilities? To claim, as Malpas attempts, that Cookson has done well by resisting the more outrageous demands of Oster's American lawyers is ridiculous.

More fundamentally, the causes of Oster's departure raise questions about the degree of influence he was allowed to exercise and the balance of powers within the Cookson board. Stephen Howard, the new

chief executive, has been a Cookson director for five years and presumably supported building up the portfolio of businesses he is now dismantling. In these days of managerial professionalism, how come Howard did not make his feeling felt about the balance of business in Cookson while Oster was still in charge?

Beckett should park at NCP

f Margaret Beckett wants to court friends in the business community, she could do worse than ask the Monopolies & Mergers Commission to investi-gate the National Parking Corporation. Few senior executives, and even few people who have ever driven a car in London. have any love for the company's ubiquitous National Car Parks subsidiary, which owns more than 600 sites in prime locations, sites that often seem to offer the only place to park legally.

Meanwhile the group's ageing founders — Sir Donald Gosling, 69, and Ronald Hobson, 78, continue to bolster their personal fortunes by taking special divi-dends out of the group while putting off flotation plans. For the record, a market listing was first mooted for NPC way back in

The latest plan is to demerge Green Flag, the motor rescue rival to AA and RAC, and trade its shares on the unregulated Ofex market. This will release £200 million to NPC without having to reveal the full details of the group's accounts and how much money it makes from its contracts with local councils.

The only way to get these out into the open is for a full investigation into NPC's business practices, which once famously involved spying on a rival operator, a company it later bought out. Given NPC will make more than £50 million this year, enjoying margins of up to 15 per cent, the MMC is certain to have an interesting time working out whether the group operates in the public interest.

Flood of excuses

ANOTHER Christmas season brings yet another set of excuses from retailers. It seems that shoppers were not buying shoes and clothes in November because it was too warm. This follows the effect of the death of Diana, Princes of Wales, which blighted the high street Septem-ber and October. Now it is too cold for the Christmas boom. So please, please, please can some-one tell me, what is the ideal weather for shopping?

Lonrho ends hotel talks with prince

negotiations with Prince operations and yesterday com-Alwaleed Bin Talai, the Saudi pleted the disposal of its car investor, about the \$500 million (E303 million) sale of the Princess Hotels chain.

The mining-based conglomerate, which expected to sell the business in the new year,

ing, the US group thatrecently. The team is being led by bought ITT. Sheraton. Other Robert Robinson, chief execubidders are expected to in tive of Dutton-Forshaw, who clude Hilton Hotels Corporaering. The breakdown in talks cha

with Prince Alwaleed, whose investments include stakes in Canary Wharf and Euro Disney, comes more than six million purchase of the commonths after Longho signed pany. However reports from an exclusivity deal with Prince. South Africa indicate a split in the JCI board, with Mzi have spent more than £5 million in fees on the aborted

When London entered into deal London is also the talks it desperately needed on a demerger of it money to pay its debts. Since trading operations.

LONRHO has broken off then it has sold its sugar pleted the disposal of its car dealership operations.

This business — which in-cludes the Dutton-Forshaw chain, Jack Barclay, the cen-tral London Rolls-Royce dealthe business in the new year, ership, and the Masterdrive has sent sales memorandrans leasing operation—is being to at least two other parties: bought by a management. The favourite buyer is be team backed by CVC Partners lieved to be Starwood Lodg in a El13 million deal.

said that that operation had a tion, the US partner of clear strategy for growth as an Ladbroke Group, and Host independent company. Rob Marriott Lourbo is confident Lucas of CVC Partners said that it will receive at least the amount Prince Alwaled was when the using dramatic market is facing dramatic.

> Longho is still in talks with JCI, the South African mining group, about a possible £450 Khumalo, the chairman, fighting internal opposition to press absad with the Lourho deal Lourho is also working on a demerger of its African

Standard Life joins banks battle for savers

BY SUSAN EMMETT

STANDARD LIFE, Europe's largest mutual life assurance company, yesterday an-nounced it was taking on the banks with the launch of a savings account. It is the latest in a long line of newcomers to challenge the traditional high street banks, including Sainsburys, Tesco and Virgin. The new telephone based

account will offer a rate of 6.76 per cent on balances of as little as El. The supermarkets pay 6.5 per cent, one of the highest rates in the market for small

Jim Spowart, managing director of Standard Life Bank, said that the account would remain competitive because, as a direct service, it would not have to maintain a branch

network. The Standard Life direct access savings account, which will be launched on January 5. will initially be aimed at individuals, but there are plans to extend it to business. The group also plans to launch fixed-term savings accounts and will bring in ·mortgages, followed by per-

Zeneca to acquire fungicide business

BY PAUL DURMAN

ZENECA is planning to strengthen its agrochemicals division by spending \$500 million (£303 million) to acquire an American-ba fungicide business and additional product distribution

rights. The pharmaceuticals group has agreed a deal with Ishihara Sangyo Kaisha of Japan to buy ISK Biosciences, which makes chlorothalonil, one of the world's biggest-selling fungicides.

Zeneca believes that this will complement its own Amistar, the recently launched broad spectrum fungicide that it expects to become the international market leader by the year 2000.

Zeneca intends that its farming customers should alternate Amistar with chlorothalonil, thus helping to prevent crops developing resistance.

The City liked the deal. sending Zeneca's shares 49p higher to £20.77.

Tempus, page 28



TALLOW US TO INTRODUCE THE NEW PROFILE H-SPEED DMPA

Times are changing and so are we. Welcome to Alcatel, the company embracing a new way of thinking. You already know us for our leader-ship in the worldwide telecoms market. Now, get to know us as the Hi-Speed Company. Yes. We provide the Hi-Tech solutions you need to meet the challenges of today's fast-paced, information-based society. And now we have re-focused our company and our thinking to respond better to your needs for cutting-edge and innovative Hi-Speed products and value-odded services. Take, for example, our many recent technological breakthroughs and commercial successes. They truly end-to-end telecommunications relations to the communications. nications solutions: from the depths of the ocean to the outer limits of space, linking together cities and people all over the world, from serving individual needs at home to business demands at work. Hi-Speed products have real user benefits, allowing for the growth of bandwidth for new applications and interactive services which will impact nearly everyone on the planet. Whether you or your customers communicate by voice, data or image using the Internet, mobile phone, satellite or fiber optic networks, you can expect Alcatel to provide you with the highest speed. We make this possible using our many Hi-Speed solutions, such as ISDN, ADSL, ATM, Frame Relay, SDH/SONET or SkyBridge. But at Alcatel, Hi-Speed is not only at the care of all our solutions; it's also the essence of our company's attitude, from our research and development right through to our technical support. We're becoming a Hi-Speed driven organization with a renewed commitment to service. Thanks to our key account and project management organizations, we shall attend immediately to your needs around the clock, wherever you are and whatever your field of activity. Being Hi-Speed driven also means ensuring a faster rate of return on your investments We can efficiently implement new products and services from initial concept to market, and quickly pull together the international resources required to develop an immediate global and operational solution. Our Hi-Speed attitude is designed to serve you better and keep you ahead. In the UK alone, 3,000 people are eager to help. To find out how, contact malcolm.butler@abs.alcatel.co.uk
9 Clifford Street, London WIX IRB. Tel: 0171 534 3100 Fax: 0171 287 2459.

The Hi-Speed Company



Bank rally peters out as chill winds hit retailers

LONDON'S blue chips paused for breath yesterday on a sudden dearth of hype in the financial sector. Unrest among the retailers saw the remain within striking distance of its 5,330.8 high.

The index eased 12.6 points. to 5,190.8 yesterday, as early gains in Wall Street soon vanished, leaving the City to reconsider takeover speculation that had lifted retail banks to record highs.

Abbey National saw an abrupt end to its week-long bull run by dropping 44p to close at £11.03. With it fell Bardays, down 50p to £17. Abbey National, down 44p to £11.03, and Alliance & Leicester, down lop to 815p.

A profits warning from Oasis Stores, down 56p at 130p. allowed Societé Générale - its house broker - to turn negative on the whole sector. With official data showing a retail volume slump in November. the City needed no further excuse to knock down almost every quoted retailer.

Marks & Spencer was worst hit, dropping 20p back to 600p. The food retailers came in right behind it, with Tesco losing 16p to 488p. Safeway a further 8p to 329p and J Sainsbury 1012p to 50912p. Asda, which announces its half-year results today, softened 312p to 17012p.

Bass was the best performer of the day, gaining 37p to a high of 936p. Goldman Sachs said it has still further to go, with a value of £11.50.

Nevertheless, Diageo was given a cold reception as the merged Guinness and Grand Metropolitan finished its first day 112p cheaper at 590p. Scottish & Newcastle gained 20p to close at 758p, while Whithread advanced 23p to

Inn Business, a brewing minnow, moved up 2p to 5912p on suggestions that it is looking vulnerable at a low of 57^T2p, while the rest of the UK brewing sector rallied.

The result was a 12.6 point drop in the FISE 100, which closed at 5,190.8 points after 870 million shares changed hands. The drop came in spite predictions by Merrill Lynch that the index will achieve a minimum of 5,400 next year as lots more money from European equity houses chase far fewer shares

It forecast that Railtrack's phenomenal run has further to go. The company's shares



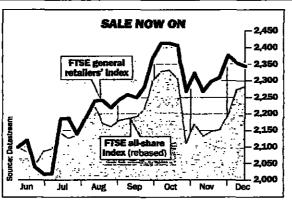
Bass, up 37p, was best performer while Diageo lost 112p

967p. It also named Lloyds TSB, up 13p at 789p, as one of 1998's most promising stocks, along with Ladbroke, off 312p at Z7112p and British Aerospace. off 19p at £17.12. It also reckons Imperial Tobacco is 'incredibly cheap" — the shares edged ahead 32p to

UBS's wish list released last week, has had a mixed

reception so far. The broker fancies Mayflower, 12p easier at 179p, UniChem, off 5p at 31912p, N Brown, steady at 42112p, Great Portland Estates, off 112p at 253p, and Gallaher, 912p stronger at

Its most successful tip has been Logica, the computer services company recovering from a summer slump. The shares broke the £11 level after



WITH only seven shopping days to Christmas, the City is becoming increasingly worried about UK clothing retailers.

A walk down any high street shows that the big chains have already started their "new year" sales, sacrificing profit margins to make sure of clearing the To investors, this sug-

gests an element of desperation and the fact that shops have geared up for a Christmas boom that is not

Also, retailers are no longer a rare safe haven for institutions fleeing companies with exposure to Asian markets. In the past six months retailers have outperformed the All-share

With the recovery among banks complete, the City is more adventurous and ready to quit retailers before more stores follow Oasis's profits warning. With no more artificial

market forces protecting the shares, and the prospect of a scrooge-like Christmas ahead, only retailers with can be sure of avoiding a rather unhappy new year.

adding IS12p to £11.10 after SBC Warburg joined its growTokyo: Nikkei Av

Hong Kong

Amsterdam:

Sydney:

Frankfurt

Singapore:

Brussels:

Paris:

CAC-40 ..

Zurich:

London:

FTSE GOVE Secs ...

German Mark .

BCO Tech

Bovis Homes

Energis (290)

General Inds

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Fing Geared Uts

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Marchpole Market Link Publ

Rapid Technology

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Savoy Asset Mingmt

Seascope Shipping Second Scot Zr Dv

Vanguard Med Wis

HIGHTS ESTES

Taylor Nisn n/p (60) 16% - 112

MAJOR CHANGES

Closing Prices Page 32

546'4p (+31p) .. 645p (+30p)

527'so (+24p)

340p (+12p)

300p (-14p)

488p (-16p)

.. 651p (-19p) .. 355p (-10p)

FI Group n/p (640) 195

Second Scottish

Broken Hill

FALLS:

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES.

Marks Spencer

Property Asset

Manchester & Lon

Northern Recrimint 1385

1125

ing fan club. With quiet trading among the FTSE 350 companies, deal ers began speculating which companies are likely to benefit from the City's traditional Christmas pastime of "win-

Among those tipped to benefit are Kunick, up 12p at 2212p and Greenway, steady at 44p. Electronic Retail Systems (ERS) was the poorest performer on the Alternative Investment Market as the digital supermarket price tag produc-er fell 5212p to 26712p. Its agreed takeover of Telepanel in the US has pulled its shares into an arbitrage trap, and dealers have woken up to the fact that Telepanel shares have not yet adjusted to the

takeover terms.

A takeover bid for Scrutions has ended the shipping company's chequered history on the junior exchange. The shares, which have never reached their April high of 350p, jumped from 270p to 310p a share yesterday.

The City seemed to overlook the implications for Jacobs Holdings, a fully-listed port operator that owns 29 per cent of Scruttons. It picked up the stake through buying Ropners Cenargo's cash bid it will now have an extra £4.45 million in the bank. The shares, 12p off at 8012p, are expected to pick up once the penny drops.

The shares, currently at an Il-month low, are expected to pick up when the penny drops.

BCO Technology, which provides a halfway house for microchip production, was awarded at 10p premium on its AIM debut and closed at

GILT-EDGED: The prospect of another interest rate rise seemed even more distant in the futures pit, after sluggish retail sales figures sparked a small retreat in both longs and shorts.

Treasury 7 per cent 2002 came off four notches to £1012432, while Treasury 8 per cent 2021 eased 1632 to £1202832

NEW YORK: Blue chips quickly shed most of their early gains after 3M shares tumbled when the company said fourth-quarter profits would be dented by currency the Dow Jones industrial average was 11.19 points ahead at

MAJOR INDICES New York (midday): 7987.50 (+11.19)

.851	PPP offers 1
32)	
<u></u>	GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE needs a growth business and yesterday it appeared to
_	have found one but the market was no
009	impressed. True, the fall in GRE's share probably had more to do with the insurer
.71)	gloomy statement on current trading than or the detail of its deal with PPP. Analysts down
76)	graded profit forecasts on news of difficult UI trading and a disappointing statement of embedded value, but the £435 million expan
91]	sion in healthcare will provide the insurer with no quick cure.
- 1	The DOD deal do

The PPP deal does offer advantages for GRE. strapped by the weak general insurance market and an uninspired life business. It provides a home for some of its free cash, estimated at more than £1 billion. Using GRE's databases. which are more sophisticated than PPP's, should provide cross-selling opportunities and,

no quick cure despite an overhaul in 1994, PPP is still overstaffed, leaving room for cost-cutting. All in all, GRE could make a return of 13-14 per cent on its investment in PPP, perhaps giving a 50 per cent boost to UK premium income which should come in handy if the current tough trading conditions continue next year.

Nevertheless, health insurance, which was touted as a big money-spirmer, is proving slow to grow in the UK with capacity rising fast. PPP's recent profits record is undistinguished, and this market, like private pensions, could go through more turnoù before consumer demand picks up. But the challenge for GRE is to convince investors that the pressure is still on the core general insurance business, which needs better cost control and claims handling. Investors should wait for evidence of the latter before buying this stock:

years. Which businesses will

deliver the earnings? Ms

Scardino needs to show that

there is more than style in

the new regime. Does she

really intend to carry Lazard

and Madame Tussauds along with Mindscape, Ad-

dison Wesley Longman and the FT. Perhaps no news is

not really good news after all

Pearson

5190.8 (-12.6) . 4756.3 (-0.7) . 2488.2 (-4.9)

2664.95 (+23.0

FTSE Fixed interest _____ 133.91 (-0.32)

FEETESWSE

NO NEWS is generally good news from Pearson and yesterday's trading statement was reassuringly light on novelty, apart from the current strong performance from the Financial Times. In fact, one of the previous horror stories, Mindscape, the electronic games group, is now billed as exceeding its earlier expectations, although Pearson does not what those were. There is also reassurance that the embarrassing accounting problems at Penaccommodated within the £100 million provision al-

ready made.
So far so good for Marjorie
Scardino, the chief executive hired nearly 11 months ago to blow away some of the more eccentric Pearson cobwebs and release the value that

supposedly lies within Pear-

son brands. The shares have

had a good run and profits of

around £320 million for the

full year seem achievable.

But without some underpin-

ning the shares are unlikely

to make further gains. Mrs

Scardino has bravely prom-

growth and a doubling of the

value of the company in five

Candover

ON the day that Angel Trains is sold for a £389 million profit, Candover, the venture capitalist, has raised £850 million for its new buyout fund — £200 million more than it had expected to raise. The enthusiasm is appropriate; after all, the sale of Eversholt, Angel's sister company, was one of the reasons behind the outstanding performance

Candover's last fund. Venture capitalists are profiting from the risk-averse posture of most fund managers. Pension funds have lost their appetite for smaller companies, so the venture capitalists are mopping up the business, either through taking public companies private or buying businesses that otherwise might have floated.

Alas. British private investors are not really benefiting from this. Most venture capiprofessional investors and are being snapped up-by Americans — 51 per cent on the money raised by Candover comes from the US. The only products group. Rutland took a pre-tax way in is to invest directly in Candover. Its shares have

STILL NO STRATEGY

of slowing down. **Rutland Trust**

risen threefold in the past five

years and they show no sign

MICHAEL LANGDON, the chief executive of Rutland Trust, the mini-conglomerate, thinks next year will be a poor one for the British economy. Bad news for the rest of us but good news for Mr Langdon who specialises in nursing sick companies to

After yesterday's £112 million sale of Thamesport, the deep-water container port near the mouth of the Thames estuary, Rutland is sitting on net cash of £71.5 million. The rest of its business is made up of corporate finance, a firm of loss adjusters, a firm of architects, a 39

packaging group, and a 25 per cent in Cape, the building

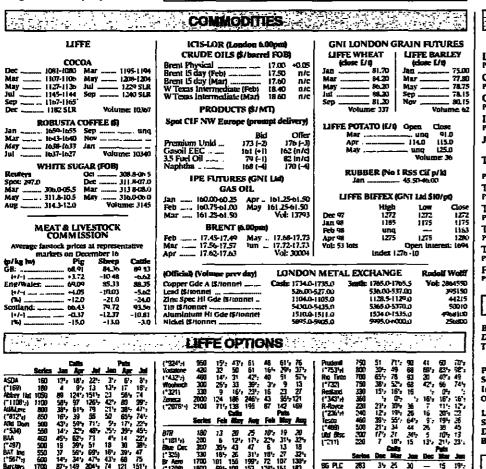
profit of £2.5 million from Thamesport in the year to December 1996 out of sales of £27.3 million, which suggests that Rutland got tomorrow's price today.

Rutland paid £52 million for the debt-burdened management buyout company that owned Thamesport in November 1995. Yesterday's deal is timely in more ways than one. To attract extra business Thamesport needs to spend a further £70 million on more high-grade port handling facilities.

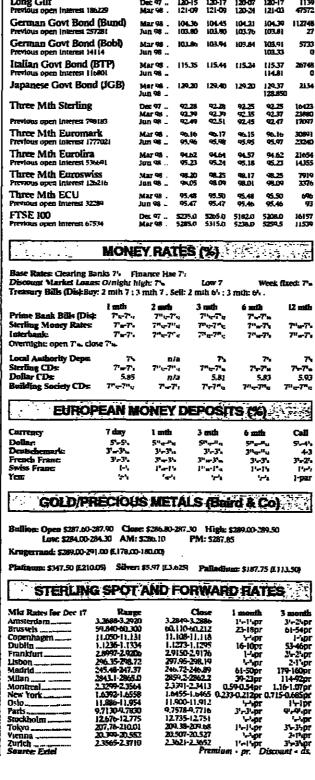
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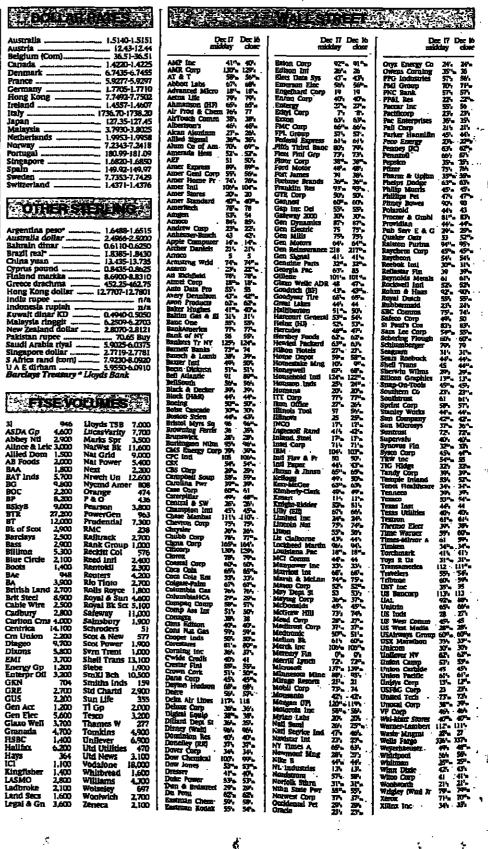
The buyer, Hutchison, has just committed £100 million to Felixstowe, which it already owns. Rutland Trust shares rose from 44½p to 514 p on yesterday's news but they may have further to run if Mr Langdon and his team can come up with another Thamesport,

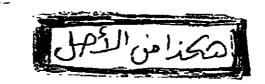
per cent stake in Capital Industries, the publicly quoted EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED



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May 311.8-10.5 May 316.0-060	Jan 160,00-60.25 Apr 161,25-61,50 LIFFE BIFFEX (GNT Ltd \$10/pt)
Aug 314.3-12.0 Volume: 3145	Feb 100.75-01.00 May 161.25-61.50 High Low Close Mar 161.25-61.50 Vol: 13793 Dec 97 1272 1272 1272
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to/ke to/ Pig Sheep Cattle	
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+/-	Lead (\$100me) 526,00-527.00 536,00-537.00 395150
(%)12.0 -21.0 -24.0 Scotland: to 43 79.72 93.50	Zinc Spec Hi Gde (\$700mei 1104.0-1105.0 1128.5-1129.0 442.15 Tin (\$700mei
Scotland: to.43 79.72 93.56 [1/-]0.37 -12.37 -[0.81]	Aluminium Hi Gde (\$/10nne) 1510.0-1511.0 1534.0-1335.0 4966100
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PETRATEGY

Some incidents stick in the mind. You remember, for instance, if a Japanese business intellectual leans confidentially across the table at an expensive seem too ignominious. The Japa-

ing healthily at the time. Back home, unemployment was on the way to its postwar peak, but the economy had burned back up solidly and inflation was falling Although a more caring approach to manufacturing would have been welcome, there was no chance of the experimental long, blunt shock to the economy being abandoned.

Fifteen years later. Japan could do with a new Keynes. Instead, it has Ryutaro Hashimoto, a pragmatic prime minister trying to do his best. To his credit, Mr Hashimoto shocked his own offici-

Japan pioneers the new stagnation

هكذامن ريامل

Tokyo bar and says: "You must January, undermaking their "re-become the new Keynes". Fifteen sponsible but disastrous three years ago, the certainty of failing in year programme of fiscal behter-such a doorned mission did not ing. The figures look huge but are equivalent to tax cuts of about 12 nese economy adapted quickly to billion in UK terms, useful rather the 1979 oil shock and was recover-than sensational.

With luck, Mr Hashimoto will undo the damage of the earlier Budget, which nipped fragile recovery in the bud. That would still leave Japan's economy floundering, eight years to the month after the start of a rolling collapse of asset prices and confidence.

As Mr Hashimoto acknowledges, stagnation in the world's second biggest economy is now inflicting heavy damage on much of the rest of East Asia, just as -America's slump after the 1929 crash spread havoc in Europe and

the financial sector, leaving unemployment at about 312 per cent. But the plight of Japanese finance has left trebly exposed those tiger economies that depended on Japanese consumer markets, investment and lending.

Officials in Tokyo have been damned for allowing banks to put off the pain of coming to terms with mountains of bad debts. But a bombed financial system can only count the cost when it has recovered enough to pay it. Tough action then boosts confidence. Recent collapses of Yamaichi et al still have a look of weakness. Mr Hashimoto has also just proposed another bond issue to shore up faith in bank deposits.

The developing world needs a dynamic, buoyant Japan but it is Hashimoto shocked his own officials yesterday when he announced that he would propose an emeragency package, of tax cuts in 1930s scale. The focus has been on your of the doldrums. Fortunately,



there is no such prospect for Japan. Unfortunately, Tokyo may point the way for the rest of us.

America and economists of the new global orthodoxy bear some blame. They bullied Japan to internationalise the yen and deregulate financial services. But Japan kept old practices such as cartels to shore up values, helping to blow up a financial bubble and then plus with America became such a all this succeeds, what can Japan's political sore that the US became determined to hobble Japan's toocompetitive manufacturers. It made sense to push the yen up and break down import barriers. But external pressure to restructure Japan's successful economy then gained such momentum that OECD economists perennially complain, for instance, that not enough small shops have yet been put out of business. Japan's economic success was

built on the ability to combine social stability with rapid change. No wonder it is not responding too well to attempts to convert it to the IMF/OECD model. Last week, OECD economists' annual report on Japan again pressed for even more of the same: a faster "big bang" deregulation of financial services to cut costs to world levels, a freer market in more transient

burst it. The bilateral trade sur- labour tougher competition law, if new generation look forward to? According to the OECD, annual growth during the period 2000 to 2025 should average just 112 per cent. That is about half the average of the past dull decade and a mere fraction of that achieved in happier times. This is what we used to call stagnation. And it is not much less than predictions for Britain and Europe. Pity the prospects for the developing world if the United States does not continue to do better with the help of cheap

Hisoanic labour. Japan has joined the low-growth West. We British know what low growth and free markets bring: vastly higher transitional unemployment, much wider income distribution and ever greater pressure on public finances and the social security system. In Japan, the average age of marriage has

pushed back so far that the dying are no longer being replaced, the population is aging and orthodoxy dictates that public pensions and healthcare be cut.

The fall from grace may not be so bad in the rest of the developed world. Today's global economic orthodoxy, having fought the antiinflation war, would not, however, help us win the next one, the one Japan is embroiled in. When monetary expansion fails, as in Japan, the new euro system has no fiscal alternative. If there is a downturn in the next few years, London's new independent interest rate setters will not acquire the subtlety of Alan Greenspan's US Federal Reserve in time.

There is no new Keynes, nor is there likely to be. Perhaps the macroeconomic policy revolution has played all its cards. Perhaps the internal dynamics of the 1990s American economy can eventually be translated elsewhere. Meanwhile, Japan should spurn orthodoxy, print lots of money and reward its families generously for their second and third children.

Who's afraid of the end of the bull run?

Martin Waller wonders whether

the bear market is coming - or

has the downturn already arrived?

still not finished Any interest in the Labour Party over the political special circumstances - war, demise of Peter Mandelson, however, is tempered by the realisation that the next election will not be anywhere near as easy to win as the last. The economy is in neutral. While no one is yet talking recession, the free-spending days of the early Blair administration seem a long way away.

in Asia, Japan is 18 months into an austerity-programme imposed humiliatingly by the other half begun more than 30 international Monetary Fund. months after the preceding 1998, the Year of the Tiger in the Chinese calendar, failed to live up to its billing; numerous Asian banks and conglomerates went bust. The surviving manufacturers are pumping out consumer goods at prices that Western producers cannot hope to march, given the sharp have passed since the start of decline in Asian currencies. the last downturn, in February That currency gap and the new fashion for austerity mean no next downtum will probably one there is buying Western be a medium-sized one. luxury goods any more.

On the stock market, the can be deflected by chance ev-FTSE 100 index is edging up ents like that election. In many towards 4,400 again II electry different ways, the 1992 bear 1997, the last year of the bull, market was shaping up to be a market at about 5,200. By July monumental one says Mr 1000 it had fallen to 4.600 as the implications of the Asian crisis finally sank in. By the end of the year it was below 4.500: since then the market exchange-rate mechanism has moved sideways. A pattern the chance deflection in this has been set; weeks of progress are subsequently wiped out by a sudden 100-point fall on any

piece of bad news. Welcome to the bear market. This is not a scenario being mapped out by many equity strategists as we move towards the end of 1997. Most are shooting for a further upward march in the market.

But it is not an impossible scenario, either. And few in the City remember the last protracted bear market, when .. share prices marked time or gradually subsided over a Lity professionals, surpris-period of years. There have ingly are inclined to vew the been plenty of blips in living prospect with some enthusi-memory. David Schwartz is a sm, at least for the opportunistock market historian. He says the best definition of a in share prices. There have means prices of businesses in

t is December 1999 and been 20 such in the UK since the Millennium Dome is the First World War. Four were drops of 50 per cent or more, but these have attended depression, or the fringe bank failures, rampant trade unionism and soaring inflation in the early 1970s.
The other 16 separate nearly

into two equal-sized groups. small drops of 15 to 25 per cent and larger ones ranging up to 40 per cent. Half of all these began within 30 months of a previous downturn, and proved to be fairly minor. The bear market had begun, and all but one, which was deflected by an election, were serious downturns.

It is dangerous to extrapolate directly from Such patterns, but Mr Schwartz points out that almost four years have passed since the start of 1994. "History hints that the Against that, bear markets

Schwartz, "You had a reces sion, and the pound was too high. Then came Britain's sudden exit from the European case came from George Soros. "Every investor every morning should get out his prayer mat and thank Soros," he adds.

But let us assume that the above scenario maps out. The FTSE 100 index peaked at 5,330.8 on October 3. If by the end of next year it is down to 4500, then the fall will have been 15.6 per cent in little more than a year, which his our definition of a bear market. If the market then drifts sideways for another year, who loses and

who benefits? ties available over the first few months, because the current bear market is a 15 per cent fall high level; of the markets







Few in the City, top, recall the last long downturn; in New York, right, the "tiger" may yet put the buils to flight; George Soros deflected bears in 1992

ticularly if cash-rich big corporates feel free to take out their smaller, less finacially stable competitors.

David Beever, chairman of KPMG Corporate Finance, says: "There are lots of corporates praying for a bear market because they very much want to make acquisitions but they can't pay these prices because it would mean earnings dilution, and they dare not do it with debt. "A number of companies

have said to me over the past four months, I would love to have a crack at that one if the price was 10 per cent lower." Venture capitalists, too, believe a bear market would bring advantages, though it has to be said that this breed tends to be optimistic to a fault and would probably regard the discovery of the proverbial comet on collision course with Earth as a buying opportunity. Eric Walters, of Alchemy

unless people haven't anything better to do with their money. I think it's opportunity time. We had great times in previous bear markets, such as the very early 1990s, buying businesses at very reasonable prices. We were a good source of money at that time.

"There are situations where the market could freeze entirely, such as happened in 1973. But I don't think that is going to happen now - the fundamentals are much stronger."

ordon Bonnyman, managing director of Charterhouse Development Capital, thinks the current values put on companies can be dangerous. "We've got very high prices; we have, in relative terms, very low interest rates. We've got long term debt available in the bond markets where repayments don't start for ten. Il or 12 years. Perhaps the

which they trade are seen as. Partners, says: 'I'm a bear as uncomfortably high. Lower well—I find it very difficult to prices mean more deals, parses why prices should go up which of venture capitalists then they might get away with will cool in a bear market." who believe they can do no wrong. It's a very difficult market to buy in for those reasons. If the market were to fall off to a very fair degree and then stay fallen off, that would help us tremendously."

The effect of a bear market, especially if accompanied by higher interest rates, would mean companies would be more constrained from raising fresh capital on the stock market through rights issues, and would find banking finance more expensive. But it would not preclude them from doing deals entirely:

Mr Beever does not expect the market to set like cement if share prices fall. "I think the big mergers will continue to be driven by synergistic benefits, and people have got to do their arithmetic very carefully to see if those synergies are there. The corporates with strong

balance sheets that need ac-

quisitions to continue their

a lower premium than the 40 per cent or so which now seems to be required.

For companies that might have their competitors in their sights, a 10 per cent fall in the market would obviously be helpful. For small to mediumsized companies, if they find 1998 tough for whatever reason, exchange rates perhaps or more likely a slowdown in the economy, then they might find themselves in a hunting season." Mr Bonnyman, too, does not see a choking off of the sources of finance for takeovers. "I've never understood the aversion the UK institutional investor has to a bit of debt here and there. Just because values have come more into line with whatever I mean by intrinsic values doesn't mean the world stops. People can still raise money. They just get it more expensively." But he does think the pace of deals will eventually slacken. "I think the people who will suffer will be

So, corporate deal-making goes on and even accelerates as the indices fall. Eventually there will be fewer deals, and fee income and bonuses spread around the City will also start to fail. The corporate sector splits into a number of large, well-financed companies with good relationships with their hanks and plenty of access to further funds, and a larger number of very nervous takeover targets. An economic slowdown means their profits are squeezed, and their balance sheets come under pressure. Big institutional investors, despairing of the market climbing again, are more inclined to accept cash offers for the weaker companies.

The venture capitalists could suffer two ways. Mr Bonnyman at Charterhouse says: "We all made money in 1990s from buying mature. mundane, cash-generative businesses discarded by their

that the companies were undervalued, and someone, the stock market or trade buyers, really

loved them."

But not all those buyouts and disposals, backed by venture capitalists cash, have been sold on or floated, so realising profits - the turbulent stock market conditions of the past couple of months have made flotations more difficult. Mr Walters at Alchemy says: "The window never completely closes even in a bear market. it's a nuisance, perhaps — you don't get a p/e of 12, you get a p/e of 11." But Mr Bonnyman is less sanguine: "If the market drops, it's self-evident that exits will be more difficult."

The bear market could also reverse what has been a noticeable trend in recent months. the virtual absence of trade buyers at auctions of businesses held by the merchant banks. and the preponderance of financial buyers like the venture capital outfits.

Bonnyman says: "The cost of often lower than for corporates. Long-term high-yield bonds are available at rates that nobody could have dreamed of ten years ago, say two points over gilts. The corporates can't compete with that. "But if the stock market comes off, debt will still be available to the corporates at tolerable rates of interest, even it interest ra tick up a bit, but it will be less easy for the financials."

So the venture capitalists may have difficulty shifting their existing businesses as these come around for sale -the average holding time of such investments is four or five years, and a huge number bought in 1992 and thereafter are now becoming mature. Meanwhile, they risk being outgunned in the bear market by the corporates - or those that are financially strong enough to expand. But for one sector, the bad times may already be here. Smaller companies have spectacularly underperformed their bigger brethren on the stock market this year. Mr Walters sits on the board of three such. "Smaller public companies are already out of favour - you could find several thousand public companies where the chairman would say, the bear market has already happened."

IT WAS Milton Freedman, the high priest of monetarism, who said there was no such thing as a free lunch. But, like many of that economist's theorems, this statement has not stood the test of time, as a reader from Wimbledon has pointed out to me.

Currently the Royal Mint is offering for sale the new 15 coins at face value. They can be ordered - postage and packing free - using a credit card, so giving the purchasers air miles, bonus points or, if you possess an Alliance & Leicester card, a 2 per cent



Not another

The reader has bought 200 coins, banked the £1,000 and collected the £20 rebate. This totally legal loophole puts the Tesco clubcard scam - where at one point the rebate on bananas was worth more than the cost of the fruit - in the shade. I can only advise all Alliance & Leicester card holders to pile in immediately.

● I AM indebted to the latest Securities and Futures Authority briefing for its collection of thoughts from the walls". These are little notes that the City regulator's inspectors have noticed pinned up in the offices of firms that they visit. My favourite will be no doubt familiar to anyone who has ever encountered the boss from hell - "I didn't work for him for long but I still wake up screaming".

Card sharp

THE departure of Richard Oster as chairman of Cookson reminds me of a time when I went to visit the garrulous yank at the chemical group's City offices. I was leaning on the reception desk when I noticed a few cards stuck next to a secretary's phone. Among the usual taxi numbers was a card promising executive services" from a busty 19-year-



old. I wonder what those services were?

Poultry gift

IT IS good to see that the traditional merchant banks still cling to old traditions. Staff at NM Rothschild celebrate what the company calls "the festive season" with a complimentary turkey. There is of course a pecking order which dictates that junior staff take home a lighter bird. Everyone can opt for a small, medium or large turkey, but a small thank you to a top dog outweighs a minion's big bird as befits an organisation that remains conscious of social class, rank and status. All well and good, except that some semor staff have asked for a IAN HISLOP, the follicularly small purkey, but are having to challenged editor of Private

• FRESH from recent victories the coal campaign yesterday threw up a new argument for its continued survival. If there were no coal industry there would be no need for homes to have fireplaces, Bill Flanaghan, chairman of the Coalfield Communities Campaign, told a meeting. And then, he asked, where would people hang their Christmas stockings? Expect Santa to sign one of the many petitions to the

Homeless YOU know the saying: "The

cobbler's children always have holes in their shoes. Well, this is particularly aposite for Nick Leslau, the property developer who is leaving Burford, the company he created, at the end of the month. Leslau is having to abandon the office his wife - a sculptress - designed for him at-Burford and has yet to find a new home for his new property venture, Prestwich Group. Fortunately, the new operation has a staff of only five and will start life squatting in a spare room at the offices of Frank Warwick, the surveyor.

It's Laa-Laa

cart home 22lb plus of poultry. Eye, fell prey to the TV pheno-

menon of the year this week. At a charity do for Crisis at Christmas, held by the property industry, Hislop beat rivals from Coopers & Lybrand and -BAA to pay £1,000 for a full set of the four. That works out at £250 each for Tinky Winky. Dipsy, Laa-Laa and Po. But this was cheap. Reuters City Screen yesterday auctioned a Tinky Winky to financial dealers with a certain Mr Mustard from moneybrokers RP Martin paying £500, which went to the Cancer and Leukaemia Childhood Trust. The Teletubbie was actually donated by one Steven Cartwright of a firm called Gordon Brown Associates. It can't be the Gordon Brown can it?

Jason Nissé



SOMETIMES IT'S EASIER TO TALK TO SOMEONE YOU DON'T LIKE.

thing in the world to want to talk it through with someone Sometimes, though, this create

> friend. But let's face it, we don't always thoose our friends for their smazin powers of tact, diplomaty and

and up ceiling the world. You may be lucky enough to be able again, you may be one of the targe

iseful, Wo're more discreet than you your girlintend or boyintend, and we're a repethetic as your family. We're also Our regional number is 6345 96 96 96.

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And you don't have so be climbin p the walls before you call us - any histed of problem, big or small, is a good enough reason to pick up the phone Call now. You'll lind we're

The Samaritans

HUSINESS ROUNDUR

BA denies US court

setback with Laker

BRITISH AIRWAYS has denied suffering a reversal in its legal fight with Sir Freddie Laker, the cut-price travel pioneer, over landing slots for Laker Airlines at Gatwick. Laker Airlines, based in Florida, said an American count had cumptured a culing in favour of British Airmand

had overturned a ruling in favour of British Airways, allowing Laker Airlines to proceed with its claim that

British Airways had used its dominant position to prevent it obtaining desirable slots at Gatwick. This is

Laker has filed a motion to alter the judgment, effectively inviting the US district court judge to reconsider his motion to dismiss. Our report suggesting

reconsider his monon to dismiss. Our report suggesting otherwise was based on incorrect agency copy. Laker launched its action against British Airways in the US District Court in Fort Lauderdale in June, saying that slots for its London-Miami service are too late to allow

passengers to make connecting flights to Central and South America and the Caribbean.

National Express deal

Rutland Trust sells **Thamesport** for £112m

RUTLAND TRUST, the miniconglomerate, yesterday sold Thamesport, the deep-water container terminal on the Isle of Grain, Kent, for £112 million to Hutchison, the Hong Kong ports group. Hutchison is one of the

world's largest container handlers and already owns Felixstowe, Britain's busiest container port. Earlier this year Hutchison said it would spend £100 million over five years to improve Felixstowe. Of the purchase price up to £8 million will go to the management of Maritime Transport Services Holdings

(MTSH), the holding com-pany of Thamesport. It is

Shares in Diageo rise on debut

By Chris Ayres

SHARES in Diageo, the company created from the £24 billion merger of Grin-ness and Grand Metropolitan, rose 212p on their first day of trading yesterday from 591½p to 594½.

The merger took seven months to complete, and was finally cleared on Monday by the US Feder-al Trade Commission. However, the group had to ditch its Dewar's whisky and Bombay gin brands. The FTC said the sale of the global rights to the two brands, worth an estimated £800 million. was the largest it had ever ordered. but that it was necessary to protect US consumers.

Guinness and Grand-Met say the merger could save them up to £175 million, although the effect it will have on the combined group's 85.000 em-

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SALON FORMULA

believed the lion's share of the £8 million will be shared between three top managers although another 13 benefit. Rutland paid £52 million for MTSH which included Thamesport and its sister company, Maritime Haulage. The deal remains subject to

approval by Rutland shareholders and is conditional on the Office of Fair Trading not referring it to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Out of the total of £112 million, debts of £28.9 million in MTSH will be repaid to a banking syndicate.

Rutland will receive net cash of approximately £78.7 million, including £32.3 million for repayment of a subordinated loan made to MTSH by Rutland together with accrued interest. Rutland said it will use the cash to take advantage of other opportuni-

ties as they arise. Michael Langdon, Rutland chief executive and deputy chairman, said: "In our view, the Hutchison offer represents a suitable way forward for Thamesport and in two years realises more than double the value of Rutland's original investment. It will leave us with significant cash resources."

He added: "Thamesport is a classic Rutland turnaround. From being in the hands of its bankers in late 1995 it is now a successful and growing container terminal." Thamesport is being upgraded to handle 425,000 containers a year in a quay and container park extension due for completion during the summer of 1998. Rutland shares rose 7p to

512p yesterday. It said that overall trading was satisfactory. After the deal it will have net cash of £71.5 million and net assets of around El21 million. ☐ Cenargo, the privately owned ferries group, has acquired Scruttons, the shipping and ports company, for £15 million in an effort to expand its service in the Irish Sea.

Tempus, page 28

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Shine Hairspray 200ml

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Lord Harris, right, with John Kitching, managing director, says Carpetright will open 40 stores a year until 2000

Carpetright plans £25m expansion

By CHRIS AYRES

THE market share of Carpetright is expected to nearly double to 30 per cent by 2000, Lord Harris of Peckham, the carpet tycoon and Conservative peer behind the company, said yesterday. He made the bold statement

after revealing that under a £25 million expansion Carpetright, which currently has 303 outlets, would open 40 new stores each year until the Lord Harris, chairman and

chief executive, inherited his family's carpet business 40 years ago and sold it for £450 million in 1988, starting again with Carpetright. Carpetright yesterday reported a 16 per cent rise in pre-

tax profits from £14 million to E16 million for the six months to October 25, on turnover of £129 million, up 21 per cent from ElOo million. Earnings per share were up

18 per cent to 14.3p (12.1p) and a dividend of 9.5p (7.5p) is due on February 28. The company is expected to meet full-year

Free at Boots

Oftel supports package deals

By RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

DON CRUICKSHANK, Director-General of Oftel, yesterday backed the cable industry's practice of offering consumers low-cost package deals which include a telephone line and a small number of television channels.

Mr Cruickshank told the Independent Television Commission, which is investigating the whole issue of bundling" of cable channels. that the inexpensive packages were "fair competition and good news for the consumer". Bundling involves offering a

large number of cable chanon a take-it-or-leave-it basis. Yesterday Mr Cruickshank said that there should be cause for concern where a supplier with a significant degree of market power made services available only in bundled form.

"BSkyB's practice of supplying premium sports and movie channels to satellite customers only if they also subscribe to its own package of basic programming could

constitute a significant barrier to market entry for other providers of basic channel packages." Mr Cruickshank said. News International, the subsidiary of The News Corporation that owns The Times. owns 40 per cent stake of

Mr Cruickshank suggested that perhaps dominant operators should make their premium channels available to other providers on "fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory" terms.

This month the issue of which channels should or should not be included in the basic package has spilled into the High Court. On Tuesday Live TV, the Mirror Group's cable channel, famed for innovations such as News Bunny. won a permanent injunction against NTL, the cable group, to keep the channel in its basic

package. Earlier in the month Channel One reached an agreement with Cable & Wireless Communications on similar issues.

Coats gives warning and says 1,100 jobs

By Carl Mortished

UP TO 1,100 jobs could be at risk at Coats Viyella, the textile firm that yesterday issued a profit warning and spelt out the details of the demerger of its contract clothing operations and the fashion businesses into a new quoted company, to

Coats Viyelia said trading in the second half had been disappointing with the strength of sterling and the downturn in South-East Asia affecting its clothing and

The company expects operating profit to fall £40 million short of the £174 million achieved last year. Michael Ost, chief executive of Coats said: "The demerger of Viyella will not solve the operational problems of the business."

The demerged Vivelia will include the UK and European textile businesses as well as the Jaeger and Viyella retail chains, a group comprising more than £900 million in sales. It will include the Marks & Spencer contract clothing business, but it will shed Counterpart, the division that supplies retailers other than M&S and which is expected to lose £8 million this year.

The thread and precision engineering businesses, with sales of £1.5 billion, will make up the new Coats group. The company would not comment yesterday on the dividend liketo be paid out by the demerged companies.

Counterpart employs about 1,100 people, with factories in the Midlands and Scotland and sourcing operations in London. The company hopes to sell the Counterpart businesses, but if buyers are not found at a satisfactory price, the operations will be shut at a cost of some £15 million.

Sir David Alliance, chairman of Coats Viyella, said every attempt would be made to find buyers for the assets and he did not expect all the

The demerger of Coats Viempire built up by Sir David over the past decade. Sir David said yesterday that the com-pany had suffered from hav-UK exposure to 50 per cent.

at risk

be called Viyella

thread businesses.

staff to be made redundant.

yella breaks apart the textiles ing as much as 70 per cent of garment manufacturing iness based in the UK while rivals had reduced their The demerger is expected to be completed mid 1998.

NATIONAL EXPRESS has bought Group Bronckaers, a privately owned bus operator in Belgium, for £4.25 million in cash. It said £3 million will be paid on completion with a further El.25 million during the next two years, subject to Group Bronckaers achieving future operating profit targets of £600,000 in each of the two years. Based at Genk near the Dutch and German borders, Bronckaers operates 104 vehicles and has 100 staff. In the year to June 30 it reported a turnover of £4.3 million, and operating profit of £450,000.

understood to be incorrect.

Tunstall in MBO talks TUNSTALL GROUP, the provider of emergency communications for the elderly, said its executive management was in talks with potential providers of finance to proceed with a management buyout of the company. The buyout proposals were first revealed in September. Independent directors are being advised by Close Brothers. Yesterday Tunstall reported

a fall in pre-tax profits to £4.14 million (£8.19 million) in the

year to September 30. Earnings were 7.1p (17.7p) a share. The final dividend is held at 3.32p, making a total of 5.17p (5p).

BAT unit disposal

SOUZA CRUZ, BAT Industries' 75 per cent-owned Brazilian unit, said it has agreed to sell its wholly owned subsidiary, Companhia Industrial de Papel Pirany, to Schweitzer-Mauduit International for \$62 million (£37 million). It said the transaction will not produce any effect which may substantially affect the net worth, the results and the operations of Souza Cruz. Pirahy is the only national producer of cigarette paper. Schweitzer-Mauduit has operations in America, France and Canada.

Saga writes down stake

SAGA PETROLEUM will write down the book value of its 23.5 per cent stake in the Dunward and Dauntless North Sea oilfield by between \$50 million (£30 million) and \$60 million. The field operator, Amerada Hess, has advised Saga and the other owners that reserves in the field and the rate of production are lower than originally estimated. The book value of the field at August 31 was \$73.8 million. Saga said further evaluations of the field will be necessary before the company can specify the exact amount of the writedown.

Prestbury acquires lease

PRESTBURY has exchanged contracts to acquire the long leasehold interest in Intec business park. Basingstoke, from Royal Life for £13.25 million. Prestbury said the multi-let property, built in 1985, comprises 223,000 sq ft of principally airconditioned high-tech space in five buildings on a secured estate of some 13 acres. Around 90,000 sq ft is currently vacant, the company said. The leasehold is held from the local council on a 250-year lease. Prestbury said the acquisition is being funded from cash resources and bank finance will be sought shortly.

OMG backs research

AN INVESTMENT of £5 million cash is to be made by Oxford Molecular Group (OMG) in Cambridge Drug Discovery, a new service company that will specialise in providing advanced high-throughput screening services for customers, ranging from large pharmaceutical groups to small biotech companies. The automated process allows large numbers of chemical compounds to be rapidly tested for potential therapeutic activity in the discovery of new drugs. OMG will provide a full drug design and screening

Stagecoach Lisbon bid

STAGECOACH HOLDINGS, the UK transport group, has jointly submitted a tender to operate the North-South rail link in Lisbon in partnership with Mota, a Portuguese construction company. The proposal is being considered by the Portuguese privatisation commission. The link is intended to relieve congestion and reduce travelling time for thousands of passengers. The winning bidder is likely to be chosen in the summer of 1998 and to begin operations in the first quarter of 1999.

Bowthorpe acquisition

BOWTHORPE, the electronics group, is acquiring Western Pacific Data Systems (WPDS), a US software company, for up to £38.1 million. WPDS supplies an integrated software package called Gold, which manages logistics, maintenance, supply and inventory adopted by several major companies. In the ten months to October 31 WPDS earned pre-tax profits of £3.2 million Evaluations are several to be \$100.000. of \$3.2 million. Full-year profits are expected to be \$6 million. Bowthorpe has also agreed to buy WPDS's UK subsidiary, based in Somerset, for £600,000.

Eurotherm blames cut in . profits on strong pound

BY MARTIN BARROW

THE strong pound battered Eurotherm, the controls and instrumentation company, where pre-tax profits fell almost 20 per cent to £30.3 million in the year to October 31.

Sir James Hann, chairman. announcing year-end figures. yesterday that the strength of sterling against leading currencies was a serious threat to business.

He said: The cumulative effect of the continued strength of sterling taken across thousands of exporting companies in Britain could, in my view, do unnecessary damage to the economy, to the UK's growth prospects and to our manufacturing base unless we return to more acceptable exchange account for just over half of rate levels in the months to

Eurotherm's reported earnings fell to 22.7p a share from 27.6p. To illustrate the impact of sterling, the company also restated earnings at constant exchange rates to show that growth would have been above 10 per cent.

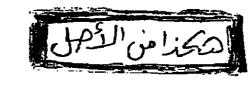
Turnover of £202.3 million was down from £206.5 million last year, but would have been El3.1 million higher at constant exchange rates.

Sir James said the stronger second half reflected actions that were taken to mitigate the exchange rate impact. Markets in Britain and America sales and showed great resil-

ience last year, he said.
"Although trading conditions have been tough and margin pressure severe there are strong indications of an underlying improvement in the rate of growth of orders received."

The total dividend is increased to 10p a share from 9p. with a final 5.8p.

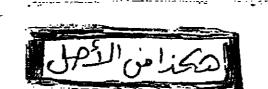
Eurotherm shares rose 8120 to 363p yesterday. In January the shares traded at 543p. Last year they peaked at 644p before a boardroom battle that resulted in the departure of Jack Leonard and his replace ment by Sir James.



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ACCOUNTANCY

هكذامن الإمل

Don't just measure the past

Neil Chisman explains the reasons why senior management should be held to account for their performance

ccountants have lost sight of their purpose in life. We are supposed to sold managements accountable for their performance. which we do very well for middle and junior levels of management, where periormance is measured by profit. But we fail with boards of directors because they are not responsible for profit, but the creation of value

Profit is important since it is a key driver of value, but other senior management activities are equally so - setting and disseminating strategy, managing risk, buying and selling businesses and much more. Senior management decisions create or destroy much more value than the execution of those decisions at middle and

Accountants do not measure this performance, although it is entirely possible. If the sets at current values — what management believes they should be worth — it represents a snapshot in time of the value created since inception. Gains and losses are only the difference in net asset value at the beginning and end of a period adjusted for any cashflows to or from shareholders. And if the balance sheet is in current values then

those gains and losses repre-sent the value created or destroyed in a period.

Accountants and managements complain that current values cannot be ascertained with any accuracy. It is the role of the stock market to value, not accountants. Tosh: managements have no difficulty in valuing businesses when considering mergers and acquisitions. They can forecast cashflows many years into the future under considerable uncertainty, they can identify their weighted aver-age cost of capital, they can perform discounted cashflow analyses.

It is easy to value businesses because they have revenue streams. It is not necessary to measure the values of individual assets, they are only the component parts of businesses. The impairment tests proposed by the ASB in recent

FREDs show what is required. Current value accounting would hold senior manage ment accountable for their overall performance. Managements would be required to show, on their own estimates, the value that they have created or destroyed. And the focus of attention of analysts and other observers would be upon the totality of value-creating activity, not just the arguable



Neil Chisman is a supporter of current value accounting

part, which we currently call profit. This would be a major step forward, but not enough. Analysts and shareholders need to take their own view on the value of a company to provide discipline on management. They need to judge independently the company's prospects, the quality and repeatability of profit and cashflows and the quality of management. There is a sim-

ple solution. Make a forecast. Add an extra column of figures in the financial schedules showing managements' estimates of the outcome for the next financial year. Outrageous? Certainly new, but hardly difficult. We all have a budget. The information is available. Why not publish it? Apply normal budgetary control to senior management. Managements would have a

ation for knowing the cost of everything and the value of nothing. If we focus on value and what drives it, then the whole concept will become much better understood and managements will concentrate on creating more of it. The author is finance director

of Stakis and a member of the Financial Reporting Council clue. So it is good to read its robust report on the aftermath

of the "green. Budget". "We

ment performance.

It is we accountants that have

allowed this situation to arise,

We have let senior manage-

ment off the hook. We fail to

measure their performance.

We still try to use historic cost

profit, so we deserve our reput-

have yet to encounter a Chancellor who did not have the. elimination of tax avoidance as a target," it says. "It is simply that some are noisier about it than others." It accuses ministers of "profound confusion" and of having become entangled in "moral fury". The Government must be hoping the firm has not decided to have a go at the morality of the Private Finance Initiative as

When regulation leads to regret

ROBERT

BRUCE

forecast neither too prudent nor too optimistic. Is it better to be sacked for under-achieve-REGULATION is a wonderful thing. Some people seem to love to see other people regument of your forecast, or to be taken over for under-forecastlated. It is only when the spotlight describes an ing the potential? They would are and turns its regulatory glare on them that disclose a wealth of informathey start to come up with reasons why they themselves should be excluded. Successive tion useful in evaluating a company's share because they would be keen to share the governments have complained about creative accounting. They have thrown up their arms uncertainties. Analysts would in mock horror on hearing of such crafty schemes as, for example, off-balance sheet probe managements' projections and question the assumpfinancing.

Ministers talk to accountants and express tions, a much more useful role

than merely trying to elicit a amazement that anyone could allow a comforecast from management.

There is the potential for a pany to tuck a large pile of assets away in such way that shareholders are oblivious of their existence and the company's balance sheet looks strikingly healthy as a result. So major improvement in the per-formance of UK plc by adoptpressure is brought to bear and an indepen-dent watchdog is set up. And, when it has got ing this much more informative approach to reporting. The present set-up is itself sorted out, it sets to and introduces rules practically designed to protect which ban off-balance sheet financing. Commanagement from being ac-countable. The corporate disaspanies produce more accurate figures, fewer of them go bust in embarrassing circumters that hit the headlines are stances, and ministers are merely the tip of an iceberg of much happier as they are no

longer being asked to sort

out accounting scandals. Then governments realise, vears after evervone else. what a brilliant scam offbalance sheet accounting is. They invent the Private Finance Initiative, (PFI). They are in wonderland. Instead of having to fund huge projects like hospitals, bridges, prisons or roads they get a private sector outfit to do that and simply pay to receive the service that the projects provide. All the borrowing for such projects van-ishes from the Government's accounts. The PSBR suddenly seems more manageable

in tough times. But later on, or last week to be precise, up pops that independent regulator. If it was off-balance sheet financing and dastardly and wrong for companies to do it, then how does it make it different when it is the Treasury which is up to the tricks. We now await the answer.

Last week's innocent little booklet from the Accounting Standards Board entitled Amendment to FRS5 Reporting the Substance of Transaction: The Private Finance Initiative is a wonderful thing. It doesn't spell it out in so many words. But the message is that if the rules are right for corporate sector transactions then they should be right for public sector transactions, particularly where the public sector has borrowed the corporate sector's clothes.

In its essence the Government's argument is simple. "The prison," it will say, "is nothing to do with us, guv. All we do is pay for the

provision of the service. It is just a service, We don't actually own the prison." To which the sensible answer is: "Pull the other one. Who else would want a prison?" There are accounting niceties, mostly to do with the impenetrable rules on leasing, but that in essence is all that is being argued about. The Government has dug itself in deeper, having realised that everything needs to be dressed up even more. So value for money is cited at all times and the pressure grows to pile more and more services, like car parking or cater-ing, into the deals as window-dressing.

The most recent Treasury paper, Partner-ships For Prosperity, published last month, had this to say: "Where the accounting analysis requires a PFI transaction to be treated in substance as borrowing, the procurer will almost certainly want to look at the deal again. The public body should examine the scope for reworking the deal so that it is clearly for the provision of services." Game. set and match to the ASB. The document

continues: "Expanding the scope of the project can be a means of achieving greater risk transfer on good value for money terms." Which corporate protestations over off-balance sheet financing rules. The document concludes that "as far as the PFI is concerned, it is important to remember that accounting treatment should not be a determinant of whether a project should go ahead; the test is value for money". Or as Sandra Thompson, the ASB's project director on the PFI would put it: "The concern is that people might add more and more risky services to the projects to justify taking it off-balance

sheet." Governments are always caught like this. They cannot stomach criticism, so they set up independent regulators to distance themselves from future scandals. But this should not deter regulators.

Despite what the largest accounting firms may wish to say about the future of regulation in an attempt to ingratiate themselves with the Brussels authorities, the plans to set up a review board for the profession are still on course. By early next year the Government will have a complete package from the profession. And that would enable it to achieve its manifesto pledge on regulating the profession by the end of April. The only danger remaining is that the review board may want to then ask a few searching questions in the years to come. The large accounting firms, like the Treasury, may come to regret their views on the validity of regulation.

Not too taxing a calculation

THE problem of duplicate tax returns and the confusion this has brought to the world of self-assessment continues to amaze tax advisers. Three Counties Accountancy, a firm in Kendall, had a client who received two tax returns. Mindful of the chaos that duplicate returns have caused they contacted the Inland Revenue to ask which one should be treated as the duplicate. They then sent it back. Four days later they received a note

from the Revenue enclosing a calculation for the tax liability. which I have been able to process without any need for correction". Not surprisingly this turned out to be "Enil on Enil income". No wonder the statistics from Somerset House show such a healthy clear-up rate.

Name dropping DOWN at Price Waterhouse they are understandably jubi-

world "resoundingly" voted for the merger with Coopers & Lybrand. Now, while regulatory authorities toil, the firms. are searching for a new name

that will sum up their fresh start to a new future. But there are signs that this bright new strategy also involves jettisoning much of their past history and culture. A note in the Christmas is-

lant that partners around the

sue of PW's in-house magazine extols the virtues of True

firm that it had published two years ago. It quotes The Times as describing it as "a rattling good read". And then they point out that, if any member of staff wants a copy, they can have one free.

Ernst in earnest ERNST & YOUNG famously

never beats about the bush when it thinks Chancellors of the Exchequer have not got a

ROBERT BRUCE

AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION

A chance to go the THE TIMES DIANA TEAM COMPETITION ENTRY FORM Read the form below carefully: the judges will base their distance for Diana

Wanted: 20 people to run the marathon as fundraisers

for the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund



he Times has secured 20 places for its readers to take part in the Flora London Marathon and help raise more than the target of £5. million for the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial

The Times 20 will be part of Team Flora, in which all the runners will be fundraising for the Memorial Fund, one of the two official charities for the race next year. A special panel has been set up to select readers wanting to 'Run for Diana' over the historic distance through the streets of London on Sunday, April 26.

The Times will also publish the complete results of the race - from the international heroes and heroines at the front to the deter-mined joggers at the back.

There has already been unprecedented interest in the 1998 event. A record 100,000 people applied to enter, including 20,000 who specifically responded to an



Memorial Frod.

This year, it was televised in more than 100 countries London streets to cheer on the 29,135 competitors, who ran from Greenwich to the Mall, triumphantly finish-

The fund-raising for the

poignant for many of the already been informed that competitors next year they have been selected to because they will be running and 600,000 people lined the : on the streets where the coffin of the Princess was car- 20 will be published in The ried at her funeral on Times on Monday, January September 6. It will also be . 19 and the newspaper will 10 years since she was the then highlight some of the

Applications should not event itself.

invitation to run for the Memorial Fund will be come from people who have take part in the 1998 race. The names of the chosen

ing the course of 26 miles official starter of the 1988. runners' stories and preparation in the build-up to the

decision on what you reveal in this form. All the winners who take part in the marathon on April 26 will be asked to sign a pledge form relating to their commitment to raise funds for the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund and to remit such funds by May 31, 1998. Our

entry forms for the chance to win a place in the Diana Team should reach the following address by January 9. 1998: The Times Diana Team, Flora London Marathon, PO Box 5071, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 7FY. Judging will take place on January 14 and the winners will be informed by telephone by January 19.

Title Initials	Have you ever competed in a marathon before?
Address	How much money did you raise?
	For which organisation/s?
Day tel	
Swe tel Female Male	Have you raised funds for any organisation/s before?
Decupation	Describe how much you raised and how you did it
Which category do you wish to enter?	
Do you suffer from any illness/es?	
Have you been in hospital for an operation? If yes, state what and when	Do you have any outstanding achievements of which you are proud? Tell us about them
Have you, a relative or friend, ever met Princess Diana? If yes, describe the occasion	What are your hobbies?
lave you, a relative or friend, any connection with any of the Diana, Princess of Wales, charities, or a special eason for wanting to be in the Diana team? Describe our connection	State, in not more than 50 words. why you deserve a place in this year's marathon
	#*************************************
	Please send the completed entry form to: The Times/Diana Team, London Marathon,

CHANGING TIMES

Ma's out, Pa's out, let's talk crude

season, another kid home alone. Let us rejoice that he is not Macaulay Culkin, the increasingly obnoxious star of the first Home Alone films. currently enjoying the inevitable eclipse that adolescence brings. Not that Alex D. Linz in Home Alone 3 deserves any great fanfare. This eightyear-old tyke has that slick. artificial manner born of acting cute in some two dozen TV commercials (he also appeared in One Fine Day. as Michelle Pfeiffer's son). Shaggy auburn hair. Husky voice. But penetrate the outer shell, and you might find electronic

Linz's character, conveniently also called Alex, is certainly not programmed to show fear. Left in his ample house in Chicago's suburbs, ill with chickenpox while his parents lead their busy lives, he greets the inevitable intruders with a few choice insults and a colossal array of booby-trap devices. Marbles lie under the welcome mat. A trunkful of books crashes down from the roof. Floorboards are loosened, buckers of glop carefully placed. Heath Robinson contraptions primed. This boy follows the Scout motto. "Be

Audiences are prepared. too, for a Home Alone movie leaves little room for filmmakers to manoeuvre. The director, Raja Gosnell, served as editor on the previous two films, so he knows the ropes only too well. The writer and producer, John Hughes, always a man fond of a formula. allows a few changes. In Home Alone and Home Alone

the house intruders were bungling burglars. The present crew are gun-carrying professionals, hired by North Korean terrorists to retrieve a computer chip, crammed with American defence plans, which found its way through a large quirk of fate into little

Initially, they behave like any hard villains. By the end, they have become Alex's playthings, composure shattered by electric shocks, encasement in ice and a hundred other torments. If you wish to send get well cards, the actors' names are Rya Kihlstedt, David Thornton and Lenny

Children always take pleasure in seeing adults ritually humiliated. For them, fun of a sort - cruel, repetitive - can be guaranteed. Older viewers must content themselves with wincing at the violence, twiddling their thumbs, and noting how the script soft-pedals parental guilt by mentioning how absent adults can still keep in touch through mobile phones, faxes, or the Internet. More jaundiced souls can even take some comfort in the sheer rigidity of the Home



Check out that tousled coiffure and eyes gleaming with innocent fun. Wonder what he's doing with the wire cutters. This is Alex D. Linz of Home Alone 3, and he has cuteness to die for

Alone formula, for if they keep making sequels as unoriginal as this, some day nobody will be at home at all.

Hollywood has no monopoly on family fun. Europeans can ladle it out too, not with same precision, perhaps, but with high spirits and a Prince Valiant, a German-British-Irish co-production shot in Snowdonia and Berlin.

Set in Arthurian times, it cares even less about authenticity than its source material. Harold R. Foster's venerable comic-strip (source, too, of Hollywood's 1954 movie). The Viking marauders who threaten our land resemble medieval bikers. The princess in peril. played by Katherine Heigl, is a blonde babe whisked from some Californian beach. Stephen Moyer's lightly likeable Valiant is, in the producer's words, "Generation X medieval-style", fired up to light for truth and justice, but gormless about practicalities. Joanna Lumley brings her own modern overtones to Morgan Le Fey, simmering among her cauldrons, dressed in black leather and chain-mail. The talk, too, is resolutely late 20th

director Anthony Hickox, usually associated with video bin ventures such as Hellraiser III: Hell on Earth, attacks the material with untrammelled glee, jostling his camera in the action scenes, highlighting the comicstrip tone by venturing briefly into animation to bridge different parts of the story. Loud music is poured like a sauce over everything. Finesse is nowhere. And, once you give up looking for it, the film becomes quite enjoyable.

George of the Jungle is acceptable, too, although appreciation may be increased if you know of its origins in a late 1960s television cartoon series created by Jay Ward, master of crude animation and satirical humour. Like Tarzan, George is jungle-bred. Unlike Tarzan, he is physically inept, hitting trees as he swings through the vines.

Lots of Home Alone violence, then? Not a bit. As the stentorian narrator informs us: "No one dies in this movie, they just get really big boo-boos." Aside from the playful stunts, the live-action characters are also kept busy following a routine story. George (Brendan Fraser, mobile face, irge and friendly) rescues Ursula (Leslie Mann, winsome, thin), a ditzy heiress on an African safari with her unfeeling fiance. George loves Vice versa. Ursula takes him back to San Francisco, where he ruffles socialite feathers and swings round the

But the jungle calls, along with its menagerie of creatures. Here technical complications enter. One minute we see trained live animals; the next, George's elephant friend Shep is eerily computer-enhanced to frolic and pounce like a dog. We meet the handiwork of Jim Henson's

Golden Gate Bridge.

Creature Shop, as in Ape, the educated gorilla, given the lordly, exasperated voice of John Cleese. Still, the multimedia animal kingdom is kept reasonably controlled by the of the Jungle is passable family fun.

So where is the adult fun this week? In Close-Up, the latest Iranian film to reach British shores, although the journey has taken eight years. Abbas Kiarostami is the director, and any admirer of his recent work, And Life Goes On or Through the Olive Trees, should need no prodding to see this typically compassionate and brain-teasing piece. As in so much recent Iranian cinema, the film exteries of cinema itself, using the real-life case of the unemployed Hossain Sabzian, who tells a woman mer on a bus that he is the Iranian filmmaker Mohsen Makhmalbaf. Meeting her family, he suggests using their home, and their services as actors, in his forthcoming- movie. Suspicions are roused, and arrest for fraud follows. Then comes

But wait. All is not so simple. For this film about a fake director is itself something of a fake, using the case's real participants but presenting simulated scenes as direct reportage. Only the trial itself, shot on video, appears the genuine article.

the trial.

Always playfully philosoph-

the believable characters? Not

here, except for James Fox's

Home Alone 3 Warner West End PG. 103 mms Remember the law of diminishing returns? Prince Valiant

Warner West End

PG, 95 mins Enjoyable Arthurian George of the Jungle Warner West End U. 93 mins Live-action debut of

Close-Up. ICA Cinema, 93 mins Humane wonder from Iran's Abbas Kiarostam Kiss Me, Guido

Metro, 15, 89 mins

a cartoon hero

Gay comedy too eager to please the crowds share his enjoyment in testing cinema's boundaries. But he never loses sight of his characters as people. Sabzian's defence is that he wanted, for a moment, to enjoy respect and

escape his impoverished life:

Kiarostami encourages us to

sympathise, and find goodness in all parties to the

e also, as always. persuades us to watch the simplest things in new ways. For several entrancing seconds we follow a canister rolling down the road, to be buffeted by fate and kicked on its way a few minutes later. A driver gathers discarded flowers from a rubbish heap to decorate his taxi: an incidental detail that becomes imbued with lyric significance: Kiarostami makes us keep our eyes, hearts and minds open: that is why he is one of the world's most important and necessary film-makers.

But will anyone pay attention to his film in the week before Christmas? The question, I fear, may be answered in Nanni Moretti's droll supporting short, where he monitors the first day's box-office takings of Close-Up in Rome Two screenings net 57 admissions. All around Italy, however. The Lion King rakes in, the lire.

Kiss Me. Guido goes all out to please with breezy comedy about a gay New York actor in need of a room-mate. Enter an Italian pizza parlour employ, ee. straight and impossib innocent. Tony Vitale's first feature offers bouncy disco sounds, amusing digs at avant-garde theatre, and a likeable cast (Nick Scotti, Anthony Barrile, Anthony DeSando). But the weight of stereotypes and trite plotting eventually drag the film down.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF FRANK CAPRA'S MASTERPIECE

JAMES STEWART

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19TH DECEMBER RAND MEST END. RECEMOND FEMEROUSE. PRODUCE ENCHEEF RECHEEF RETAINED ON GHE NOTING HILL MINERAL VERGEN PLEMAN ROAD SCREEN ON THE HELL HANDOUR EIGHTS SOUTHEAPHON. COMMENCE ARES CENTRE RORMS LEGATIVETON FOR WARNER FORE. - enfiles bem house-ablilierhane. Man henter cornshedous-abcreading-sheffitid showboods-abcavelie tanged Cambo hunburgh-gelngow film ihratre. Atson dublin-viton bilfant-akcikolkrenghum-vitoji newfort-abcavorwich

Ban this movie'

Every week, young film fans discuss the latest releases . . .

☐ HOME ALONE 3 Leslie Isaiah Thomas. 19: So violent that I can't recommend this movie to adults, let alone

Dom Young, 19: If you want your home left standing, do not let your kids see this. Jethro Aukin. 19: Similar to Godfather Part III, in that it's not as good as Parts I and II. Sharada Osman, 19: Like a children's version of Pulp Fiction. Ban this movie.

☐ PRINCE VALIANT Leslie: This film has little going for it other than Stephen Moyer, who is going to be a great big superstar.

Dom: The original comics were inspired, this film much Jethro: Began well but very quickly went downhill.

eyes off Mover. Step aside. Tom Cruise. ☐ KISS ME GUIDO Leslie: It has its comic moments. There are just too lew

Sharada: I couldn't keep my

of them. Dom: The actors and director do very well considering the script. The scriptwriter had obviously forgonen he was writing a comedy. Jethro: A very insubstantial film. I remember when comedy meant laughs. Sharada: Pleasant enough - 1

have seen worse films.

Why did they keep mum about this? **■ MOTHER**

CIC, PG, 1996 THIS delightful comedy by Albert Brooks, unaccountably passed over for theatrical release, follows the fortunes of a science-fiction writer at the crossroads who decides the best way to solve his problems might be to return to his mum, and live in his old room at home. Bickering and carping follow, not least over the contents of the fridge. Brooks himself fills the neurotic hero's shoes with ease. The film is made, though, by Debbie Reynolds, getting her first major role in 25 years as the mother used to her own eccentricities, and now faced by

A BING CROSBY CHRISTMAS VCI. E. 1979

someone else's. A rental

FIFTY minutes of rapid clips from 15 years of musical Christmas cheer, dispensed on television by Bing Crosby,

and Airto/Flora Purim, and he's made

six highly regarded albums as a leader.

dwell on two aspects of his playing: the

thoughtful restraint of his approach.

and the elegant sonorousness of his

tone. Both qualities were readily appar-

ent as soon as Margitza eased himself

and his quartet - pianist Steve Hamil-

ton, bassist Mark Hodgson, drummer

Jeff Boudreaux - into his first piece, an

Reactions to these albums generally

NEW ON VIDEO the compelling emotions and

surrounded by beaming family members, and showbiz colleagues young and old, from Fred Astaire to David

■ DANTE'S PEAK CIC, 12, 1997

AN IDYLLIC town in the Pacific Northwest falls prey to the dangers of a belching volcano and cardboard characters. Here are Pierce Brosnan, earnest volcanoloeist, and Linda Hamilton, the single-parent mayor. There are children, one grandma and a dog. The special effects are very convincing; a pity no one thought to expend much attention on the script. A rental release.

■ ANNA KARENINA Warner, 12, 1997 ST PETERSBURG gleams in the sunlight. Ballrooms shim-

Karenin, who starts frostily but then thaws nicely as his wife's affair unravels. As Anna, Sophie Marceau does little to hide her French nationality, while Sean Bean eliminates charisma from Vronsky, the Count who captures her heart. A stodgy Euro-pudding from director Bernard Rose; read the book instead. A rental release.

mer with gilt. But where are but the story of James Stew-

TT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE PolyGram, U, 1946 FRANK CAPRA'S hymn to homely American values is no stranger to video, although this release benefits from restored image and sound and a 23-minute item about the making of the film. There are

cornball touches, certainly,

art's doubting do-gooder in a small, cosy town has its interesting dark side, and it would take the most determined Scrooge not to be moved by the final moments, when Stewart pulls back from the brink.

SÉLENA Warner, PG, 1997

TEX-MEX singer Selena, shot dead two years ago by her fan club leader at the age of Zi, receives the worshipful biopic treatment in this entertaining movie. The fatal incident itself is not even shown; instead we focus on Selena's family background and rapid rise to glory. What saves the film from being anodyne, apart from the music, is the performance of Jennifer Lopez, whose smile radiates enough sunshine and energy to see us all through winter. The director is Gregory Nava, best known for dependent movies such as El Norte. A rental release.

GEOFF BROWN

ASKED to account for his interest in Passion with jazz, Detroit-born saxophonist Rick Margitza has a straightforward reply: "I heard a Charlie Parker record; that's panache all it took." Given that stringed rather than reed instruments run in his family - both his father and paternal grandfather were violinists: his maternal JAZZ grandfather played cello on several of Parker's Bird with Strings albums -Rick Hardiza his choice of musical direction was a bold one, but it has paid off: at 36. Pizza Express, W1 Margitza has an enviable string of credits behind him, including stints with Miles Davis, Maynard Ferguson

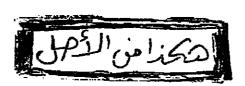
average saxophonist frequently hurtles into the set's introductory number like a sprinter off the blocks. Margitza paced himself, gradually transforming his warm, gently insistent tenor sound into the kind of passionately rhapsodic thetoric he required for later originals such as Gypsies, a bustling theme celebrating his Romanian heritage. Margitza spent five years studying in New Orleans, and he credits the city

original. August in Paris. Where the

with impressing upon him the impor-Boudreaux is a Louisiana native, and he brings a funky vigour to the music of his associate, constantly breaking up the beat into lively snare-led shuffles, or as on an intriguingly rejigged version of Gershwin's Embraceable You - resorting to mallets to give an almost timpani-like effect to his soloing: In both the first set's closer, Points to Ponder, and in the bluesier originals in the second set, Boudreaux proved the perfect foil to Margitza, cushioning his more contemplative moments yet driving him with panache through his music's more energetic passages.

Given the tasteful eloquence that characterised Margitza's handling of both his tenor and soprano horns: during this performance his ambition to emulate guitarist Pat Metheny by "reaching a lot of people without selling out" should be wholly within his grasp.

CHRIS PARKER



Notre Disney

Intervals: Disney is preparing to adapt another of its blockbuster screen trusicals as a stage show. The Hunchback of Notre
Dame, which has already taken a cool £350 million at cinema box offices, will follow The Lion King onto the Broadway boards some time ir 1999, with a West End opening later. Alan Plenken will write the prusic, Stephen Schwartz the lyrics. Unscheduled as yet is Disney's version of Aida—music by Elton John rather than Verdi.

SCULPTURE: Henry Moore, greatest of 20th-century British sculptors, will be celebrated throughout 1998 to mark the centenary of his birth on July 30. The National Gallery, Tate, British Museum and Sainsbury Centre in Norwich are all planning exhibitions, and a touring show will open at Yorkshire Sculpture Park in April and travel widely. There will be a big retrospective in Vienna, two documentaries on BBC2, and the publication of four hitherto een editions of Moore's caphics. In addition the lenry Moore Foundation is planning to focus attention on the artist's home at Perry Green in Hertfordshire, where there will be an open day on June 20.

THEATRE: In what is generally agreed to have been a strong year for new drama, ten writers have been shortlisted for the Lloyds Private Banking Playwright of the Year Award. They are April de Angelis (The Positive Hour), Alan Ayckbourn (Things We Do for Love). Helen Blakeman (Caravan), Caryl Churchill (The Blue Heart), Martin Crimp (Attempts on her Life), Mike Cullen (Anna Weiss), Patrick Marber (Closer). Martin McDonagh (The Cripple of Inishmaan), Conor McPherson (The Weir) and Tom Stoppard (The Invention of Love). David Hare's Amy's View was excluded from consideration at the author's request. The winner of the £25,000 award will be announced on January 29.

In Dublin, Isabel Carlisle finds that however the future may judge a giant of Pop Art, the present is still impressed



Mao (1973): "Warhol instinctively knew which images were sufficiently embedded in the American psyche for their manipulation to create a sensation. Then he doubled the impact by reproducing the mechanically produced image"

Warhol's own 15 minutes of fame linger on

leven years after his death, the subject-matter of Andy War-hol's work, from Campbell's Soup cans to Chairman Mao, is still part of our daily lives and mythology. His influence on young artists has never been more evident—in their self-promotional—skills as well as their art—and Warhol can be viewed at just enough of a distance to allow his stature in the second half of the 20th century to be seen to be as great as Marcel Duchamp's in the first half.

One generation hence and his revolutionary inventions of the multiple image and the silkscreening of paint on to canvas may not seem so significant. His great pantheon of the visual icons of our age will certainly have begun to fade, and it is hard to imagine that Wathol's reputation will not fade with it.

However, the retrospective of Warhol's paintings and sculpture currently on show in Dublin presents an unashamedly positive view of his artistic career. Here we have Warhol floating free of the dead weight of his bad movies and the blatant commercialism of his late, avidly sought portrait commissions and advertisements.

With most of the loans coming from the Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh, the career of this giant of Pop Art can be traced in its entirety, from 1956 to 1986. Versions of almost all the key works are present. Tuna Fish Disaster, Jackie, Cow Wallpaper, Skull, Myths, Guns and the 1986 Self-Portrait among them.

The show begins with the

tive, calligraphic line and fantastical imagination that Warhol used in the 1950s for the advertisements by which he first made a living. Disconcertingly, in these early drawings Warhol treats

pen and ink sketches of angels

and cats by Warhol's Slovaki-

an mother, Julia Warhola.

They have the same decora-

all his subject-matter the same way, whether it is a woman being presented with a flower or a boy injecting himself with heroin. The ink lines are biotted to make them look artistic and give the flusion of printing, a technique that achieves the effect that the later silkscreens on canvas

later silkscreens on canvas did: emotional neutrality.
However horrifying the scenes in these paintings — an empty electric chair or a car crash with mangled bodies — Warhol deflected accusations of sensationalism by feigning reportage. It was a neat trick

6 Here we have Warhol floating free of the dead weight of his bad movies 9

and one which is used today by, among others, the video artist Gillian Wearing, winner of the 1007 Turner Prize

of the 1997 Turner Prize. In finding a method of transferring photographic images to canvas using the misaligned register of newspaper printing and the colours neon signs, Warhol was both subverting artistic tradition and broadening the possibilities of painting. He first used the screenprinting tech-nique in 1962 to create such works as Three Coca-Cola Bottles and Gold Marilyn. The latter juxtaposes two discs of canvas painted gold, one with the publicity image of Monroe that Warhol was to repeat again and again silkscreened on to it, the other left blank. Like much of Warhol's work one wonders whether to take it at face value or probe for deeper meanings.

Duchamp put his finger on

Warhol's art when he said: "If

you take a Campbell's Soup can and repeat it 50 times, you are not interested in the retinal image. What interests you is the concept that wants to put 50 Campbell's Soup cans on a canvas." When the multiple soup-can pictures were first shown, the concept provoked furious reactions even from

people who had not seen them. Warhol instinctively knew which images were sufficiently embedded in the American psyche for their manipulation to create a sensation. Then he doubled the impact by reproducing the mechanically produced image in a way that imitated the mechanical process, but was in fact highly skilled artistry, in his sculpture as well as his painting. The Brillo soap pads boxes looked like the real thing, but were in fact brilliant imitations in painted wood. Furthermore, no two silkscreened images were the same.

The Dublin curators have used the succession of small rooms opening off long corridors at the former Royal Hospital at Kilmainham to show single works. Silver Clouds, made of helium-filled plastic film, drift inside one room, while Cow Wallpaper — the lurid pink head of a Jersey cow silkscreened lifesize on to yellow in a repeating pattern — covers the walls of another. Half the length of one corridor is taken up with Warhol's silkscreened photo-graph of a kitschy coloured drawing of Leonardo's Last Supper. Shown double, side by side with the repeat image, it is twice the length of the

original in Milan.

For Warhol, nothing was sacred. But by the time of his death he had devoured so many icons that he had himself become a monstre sacré.

◆ Andy Warhol: After the Party — Works 1956-1986, sponsored by ACC Bank, is at the Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin (003531 6129900), until, March 22

Designers to the world History's

arl Larsson was a painter and illustrator; his wife Karin was a designer of furniture and textiles. They met in France, where they were both studying, and married in Stockholm in 1883. In 1888 they were given a cottage at Sundborn, in central Sweden, and began transforming it to suit the needs of their growing family.

transforming it to suit the needs of their growing family. Almost immediately Carl started recording their life there in a series of elegant. sun-filled watercolours. When the first album of these, Ett Hem (A Home), was published in 1899 the result was rensational. The Larssons became the most famous artists in Sweden, and their lifestyle swept the country.

And, indeed, the world. The show of their work at the Victoria and Albert Museum is subtitled "Creators of the Swedish Style", and there is no need to underline what that has meant to 20th-century decorative arts worldwide. The fact that Ikea is the show's sponsor says it all.

Naturally the Larsson style did not come out of nothing. The show points to a number of influential predecesors in Britain (Victorian painted furniture, Kate Greenaway's children's books) and Sweden, where 19th-century tastes for the dark and ornate had never entirely ousted 18th-century simplicity, designed to trap as

John Russell
Taylor on the

Swedes who changed the look of every home

much light as possible indoors during the dark days of a northern winter.

There are also significant works by contemporaries such as Voysey and Mackintosh. Evidently we are dealing with the tone of the times, when a number of important artists and designers were naturally heading in the same direction. This does to some extent

answer the question a friend asked me at the exhibition: "All very pretty, I grant you, but where does it get us today?" The past is always implicit in the present, but here particularly so. The final section reminds us of the way the Larssons' taste for natural or brightly painted wood, their white or pale-coloured walls, the graceful, rather lapanese asymmetry of their arrangements, all fed into the Modern movement's repertoire of effects and the Bauhaus way with textiles and metalwork. Though the Larssons were not alone, their role was crucial.

The first impression of the

show is one of delicate period charm. The volumes in which Carl Larsson recorded his family life in Sundborn, like Ett Hem and At Solsidan, were universal bestsellers, and it is not difficult to see why. They, and more especially the watercolour originals, encapsulate an ideal vision of life which seemed at the time to be within reach of ordinary

people, and now has an added charge of intense nostalgia.

But it should be emphasised that, while undoubtedly light-weight in the overall artistic pattern of his time, Larsson was a brilliant draughtsman with a finely unconventional sense of composition. The watercolours, whether or not regarded as "mere" illustra-

tions, sparkle with life.

His larger and more determinedly serious paintings look rather anaemic when compared with the nearby work of his Scandinavian Symbolist contemporaries, but for all his success with many major mural commissions, he does not seem to have been cut out for the monumental. It was as an intimist that he first made his name, and as such he has triumphantly survived a century's whirliging of fashion.

● Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, SW7 (0171-938 83-Pl, Mon noon-5.30pm, Tues-Sun 10am-5.30pm, until Jan 18. E5. concs £3

History's broad canvases

I thas been unkindly said of the early 19th-century Italian painter Hayez that to the Italians he is Delacroix, to everyone else he is Delacroix. John Russell Taylor writes. Of course, to appreciate the barb you would have to know who and what Delaroche was, which, considering his unfashionability, has not been easy for 150 years. But in the past few years Delaroche's stand-

ing in Britain has improved.

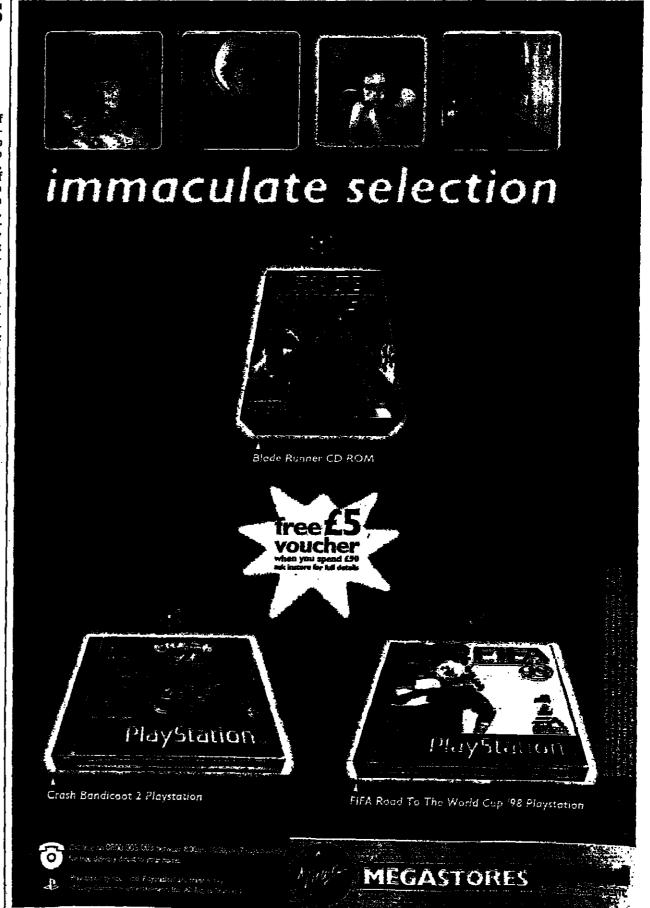
This is largely because of his large painting of The Execution of Lady Jane Grey (1833), now one of the most popular paintings in the National Gallery. There is even a romantic story attached to it. At the time of the great Tate flood in 1928 the painting was rolled up in the basement, considered too quaint and Victorian to show. It appeared to be irrevocably damaged, and was left as it was. So when someone finally looked at it again in the 1970s, it had dried out so slowly and naturally that it was hardly damaged at all. It was restored and put on show in the National Gallery, and the rest

is history.

Indeed, practically all of Paul Delaroche's painting is history, in a more literal sense. Few people realise that a number of other historical setpieces from the same hand are not far away, in the Wallace

Delaroche was already dead and well past the zenith of his reputation in the late 1850s and early 1860s when most of the paintings were bought, but the Marquess of Hertford was of an independent mind. If the pictures in the current show at the Wallace strike us first of all as an illustrated history, suggesting to the interested spectator what Joan of Arc could have looked like in prison, or the Princes in the Tower, they are much better as paintings than one might suppose. Delaroche was undoubtedly one of the great image-makers: even if you do not like the way the canvas is painted, you never forget the picture Delaroche's imagination has formed.

● Death and Devotion is at the Wallace Collection, Hertford House, Manchester Square, WI (0171-935 0687) until Jan 12





هكذامن الدُّعل

snow

LONDON **BBC CONCERT ORCHESTRA** SHOWCASE: The popular sograng Lestey Garrett, reams up with the BBC Concert Orchestia under Peter Robinsor for a Christmas gala concert which includes seasonal songs as well as a selection of music from the divising chart-

topping albums
Feetival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171960 4242), Tonight, 7 30pm (2) CAROL CONCERT: Stephen Layton conducts the Holst Singers accompanied by the City of London Sintonia in a performance of 20thcentury Christmas carols, ser by Peter Warlock, Frank Bridge and John Rutie The soprano Emma kirkby and the tenor (an Bosindge are solosis). St. John's, Smith Square, SW1 (0171-

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: The Norwegian plants Justicial Intelligence partial partial Laid Ove Andaries demonstrate his technical skill and musical insight as he part the LSO as solost in the first of two concerts featuring Rachmannov's challenging Plana Concerto No. 3. This is coupled with another work by the same composer, the Second same composer the Second Symphony Tadeale Oteks conducts. Berbican, S& Street, SC2 (0171-638

8891) Tonight tomorrow, 7 30pm (5) ROBIN NOOD: Daming teats and superbispecial effects are all pain of this admin-packed performance learning a standard cast of children's favourities Sylvester McCoy, of Dr Who lame, plays the evil Sheriti, with Peter Duncan (Bue Peter, Duncan Qarest as the ordinal hero. the guidaw hero Lewisham Theetre, Cattord, SE6

(0)(81-690 0002) Today and tomonow. 1 30pm, 7 30pm, Sat, 1 30pm, 4 30pm, 7 30pm Sun, 2pm 5pm Then Mon-Sun, vanous times. Until Jan 18 (6) HANSEL & GRETEL Theatre Royal's associate winter, Patrick Prior, transform

ALL IN THE WRONG. Paul Shelley

recreates the role of Sir John Restlass Arthur Murphy's excellent 18th-century romp One of this theatre's happiest

Orange Tree, Clarence Street, Richmond (0181-940 3633) Mon-Sat,

7 45pm; mats Thur (Jen 8, 15) 2 30p. and Sat, 4pm. Additional mats

BUGSY MALONE: The cast of the

National Youth Music Theatre life their

solurge-guns in the spool gangsior musical derived from Alan Parker's

move Jeremy Taylor directs Queens, Shafesbury Avenue W1 (0171-494 5041) Mon-Sal. 7 30 m

Ved and Sat, 2 30pm. Until Jan 17.

Ations hauntingly chilling in welcome revival of Albeo's play about marriage.

Maggie Smith plays the drunk sister Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SWI (0171-800 9800), Mon-Sat, 8pm; mate

N AN ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE Lan

National Theatre (Oliver), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252) Tonight Sal 7 15pm; mat Set. 2pm In rep. 6 AT THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR

Michelien plays the spa doctor pitting himself against the community in Trevor

Jonalina Kert directs Torn Hollander as the presumed respector. Bran Murphy as his servant and lan McDiarmid as the devious Mayor in Gorgol's matchless

satinc comedy Almelda Theatire, 108 Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404) Mon-Sat, 7 30pm; mai Sat, 3pm Unité January 31 👼

A FURTHER GESTURE (15): Stephen

Rea's escaped IRA prisoner linds lie hard in Manhattan Boquent human drama, with Rosarfa Pastor and Affred Molma, Drector, Robert Domhelm ABC Piccadilly (0171-437 3561)

SUMMER (18): Reckless leenagers got their comsupperior Variable horror him from the writer of Scheam With Jennier Love Heartt, Freddie Prinze Jr Director Jim Galespie

Jim Gilespie
Odeons: Kensington (0181-315 4214)
Swiss Cottage (0181-315 4220) Plaza
§ (0990 889990) Ritzy (0171-737
2121) UCI Whiteleys § (0990 88890)
Virgins: Fulham Road (0171-370
2636) Trocadero § (0181-970 6015)
Warter § (0171-437 4343)

PERSONS UNKNOWN (18): Joe Mantegna, kelly Lynch and Naom Watte

ourn their lingers stealing drug money So-so crime thriller, directed by George

◆ TOMORROW NEVER DIES (12).

Orector Roger Spotiswoode ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171)

636 61481 Barbican (0171-638 8891)

Claphem Picture House (0171-498 3323) Curzon Maytair (0171-369 1720)

are (0181-315 4215)

Pierce Brosnan's James Bond cor

Metro (0171-437 0757)

I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST

NEW RELEASES

A DELICATE BALANCE Elect

ow, Dec 31, Jan 2, 4pm 🔕

ediscoveries back for Christmas

THEATRE GUIDE

Tadaaki Otaka conducts

Rachmaninov, Barbican

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

the traditional tary tale into a fun-filled partionaline with foot-stompling music by Greg Palmer. Stage newcomers Harmah Lawrence and Alex Newland

Theatre Royal Strattord East, Geny Raffes Square, E15 (0181-534 0310) Mon-Sar, 2 (5pm and 7 (5pm,

LEEDS: Opera North is joined by the award-wirming singing thesplan Kim Criswell in a concert performance celebrating the glorious music of

play the title roles.

ELSEWHERE

■ House tull, returns only

Some seats sysilable

Seats at all prices

☐ HRH: Corin Redigrave and Arranda Conchrue play the Duke and Duchess of Windsor in another stage version of than atomys, this time exited to the

Playhouse Northumberland Ave. WC2 (0171-839 4401) Mon-Sal, Born, mats Thur and Sat, 3pm 🔊 THE MAGISTRATE INT at the Magistrate fun Richardson plays the much harassed hero in a titually furnry revival of Pinero's tarce. Cest includes Graftam Crowden, Frank Middlermass, John Padden Sarroy, The Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8889). Mon-Sat 7 30pm, mats Wed and Sat Jann 82.

☐ THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR Ian Judge's joby production, with Leslie Philips being crammed into the laundry basket by Joanna McCallum. Petherbridge plays Ford **Barbican**, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-6**38** 8891) Today, 2pm and 7 15pm Intep

SATURDAY NIGHT World pramare of Sondhaim's first musical and a coup for the Bridewell (The onginal was abandoned in the early 1950s when the producer died) Sat in Brooklyn in 1929; love v money, pretance v reality Music and lyncs by Sondreyn, book by Julius and Philip Epstein Epstern Bridewell, Bride Lane, EC4 (0171-936 3456) Tue-Sat. 7 30pm; mars Sat end Sun, 3 30pm. Until January 24

Broadway Entitled I Gat Ringtom the programme spans a pained of 50 years of matchiess songwriting an includes numbers such as Sift Hard Young Lovers and Manhettan, David Charles

Abell, musical director of the American lour of Les Madrahes, conducts Crend Theatre 46 New Briggate (0113-245 9351/440071). Tonight and

MANCHESTER David Throllal plays

Noal Coverd's sensity portrait of himself in Present Laughter, his capoyable cornedly of a thesp at boy Geraldine Alexander, America Boxer and Rachel Fielding play three of the women in his cornelinated by Matthews I least directs.

7.30pm Opens tomorow, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mets Wed and

GLASGOW: The Scottlish Chamber Orchestra presents the world premiera of kurt Schwertelk's musical version of

Roald Dahl's "revoting thyme" Goldflocks, with a test adapted from the original by Donald Sturrock A matrice for schools (2 30pm), is followed by an

for schools (2.3upm), is claiwed by a entering performance (7.3upm) which also teatures music by Strauss, Mozar and Weber, H.F. Gruber conducts Royal Conduct Half, 2 Sauchsehall Street (0141-287 5511) (5)

Fine Heyward: Objects of Desire (0171-928 3144) Museum of London Bedlam: Custody, case and cure (0171-930 6907). National Holten's Ambassadors (0171-747 2985) National Portrait: Hyenas in Perticulas (0171-050 6055). Royal Academy: Victorian Fally Parring (0171-437 7438). Serpentine: Piero Manzon (0171-02 6075). Tate Tumer on the Lore (0171-867 8000). V & A: Costume and Teolies of Pakistan (0171-938 8349/8441).

LONDON GALLERIES

ted Me. Matthew Lloyd directs Royal Exchange at Upper Campfield Market (016) 833 9833). Previews today

tomorrow. 7 15pm (B)

Şat, 2 30pm, Until Feb 7

STEPPING OUT Musical version of Lij STEPPRING OUT Musical version of flichard Hams's hit play (music and lynes by Clenis King end Mary Stewart Dawd) Julia McKenzie directs Lig. Robertson and her hopeful hoolers Albery, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (0171-388) 1730) Mon-Sa. Spm, mars Thur 3pm and Sat, 4pm

El TREASURE ISLAND, Tom Georgeson straps turnsell into the vecaden log for Nei Bartlett's adaptation of Stevenson's classic tale of adaptation of Stevenson's classic tale of praties, stubblooms, cuttasses and a longing for toasted cheese Lyric, King Street, Wel (0181-741 2311). Mon-Sat, 7:30pm (except Dec 31, 6pm), mats Sat, 2:30pm and Dec 23,24,26 31, 2:30pm, mats Dec 9.11.16, Jan 8,14, 1:30pm, Until January 17. LONG RUNNERS

Si Cats New London (0171-405 0072)

Si Greene Cambridge (0171-494 5080)

Si Les Misérables Palace (0171-434 0909)

Si Mêss Selgon Druy Lane (0171-494 5400)

The Phantom of the Opera Her Maesty's (0171-494 5400)

Smokey Joe's Cate: Prince of Wales (0171-839 5987)

Smokey Joe's Cate: Prince of Wales (0171-839 5987)

The Woman in Black: Fortune (0171-636 2238) Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

CINEMA GUIDE

films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

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CURRENT

conders what to do about corrupt cops. Rawed but absorbing drama, with Sylvester Statione, Harvey kertel, Robert De Niro Director, James Mangold, Greenwich (0181-235 3005) Odeones Camden Town (0191-315 4295)
Kensington (0191-315 4214) Marble
Arch (0191-315 4216) Series Cottage Arch (0181-315 4216) Switzs Cottage (0181-315 4220) Ritzy (0171-737 2121) Screen/Geen (0171-225 3520) UCI Whiteleys & (0990 88899) Virgins: Cheisea (0171-385 598) Trocadero & (0181-970 6015) Warmer & (0171-

◆ THE FULL MONTY (15) Unamployed steetworkers strip for a Bouncy British comedy, with Robert Cartyle, Torr Wilkinson, Mark Addy. Odeons: Mezzanine () (0181-315 Whiteleys () (0990 888990) Virgins: Chelses (0171-352 5096) Trocadero () (0181-970 6015)

ONE NIGHT STAND (18): Absorbing ONE NIGHT STAND (18): Absorbing study in inhelity and its affermath Excellent performances from Wesley Snipes, Nastassja Kinsky, Robert Downsy, Ir. and Kyle Mad-achian Gaste § (0171-727 4043) Odeon Cemden Town (0181-315 4255) Plaza § (0990 888990) Ritzy (0171-737 2121) UCI Whiteleys § (0990 888990) Virgin Trocadero § (0181-970 6015) Warner § (0171-437 4343) THE TANGO LESSON (PG), A film

director learns to tango Brave and enticing him by Salty Potter, who co-stars with Pablo Veron em (0171-351 3742) Odeon (0171-837 8402)

UNDER THE SKIN (18): Powerful eday Bahsh first feature explorate the shockwaves of onef. With Sam Morton Director, Carne Adler.

◆ WELCOME TO SARAJEVO (15) Striking British account of reporters covering the civil war in 1992, based on Michael Nicholson's experiences. With Stephen Drilane
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) Warner (5) (0171-437 4343)

WILDE (15): Stephen Fry as Oscar Wilde fine and louching, though the tim is more timel than you might expect. ABCs: Painton Street (0171-330 0531) Shaftesbury Avenue (0171-356 6279) Richtmond (0181-332 0030) Virgin Fulham Road (0171-370 2535)

Pretty girl, likes a melody

unknown pop future in 1995, when she left the Eternal nest to beat her own fledgeling wings. has proved to be a blessed flight to fulfilment. Moreover. it has run parallel with the continued prosperity of her South London soulmates with an entente so cordiale as to

teach the UN a thing or two. Such an ascent has involved a marketing tour de force that installed Louise as the young British male's favourite eve candy. The effect (one hesitates to say the intention) has been to divert some attention from her music. Buy the album, look at the pictures and hey. you get a free record with it. But that undervalues the 360-degree appeal beaming out from an eager entertainer appreciated as much by children, couples and mums and dads as by the libidinous lads who consistently vote her Top of the Totties in monthly magazines. Pop fluff? Anyone who thinks so can put her two

in their pipe and smoke them. The next stage in her showbiz evolution has been a first UK tour of our larger theatres over the past month. Her commercial pull was fur-ther emphasised by an unsubtle sponsorship deal, as the Soft & Gentle No Sweat show made its penultimate stop on the South Coast. In the foyer of the Brighton Centre, lackeys dispensed promotional deo-

bestselling solo albums and

seven consecutive hit singles

Brighton Certife:

dorant: fortunately, no one took the chance to describe the place as an armoit venue.

With anticipation high among the six-to-sixty audience, we heard an a cappella introduction to In Walked Love, then in walked Louise, lip-mike in place, demure in red suit with tasselled trousers. Her visual presentation was less glossy than the Vegas sensibilities of Eternal's last concerts in April, her biggest prop that girl-next-door smile. flashed between almost every vocal line. Ultrabrite or Signal missed the sponsorship boat

Hits such as Undivided Love snuggled next to new album tracks, including Trust In You and Shut Up & Kiss Me, in an assiduous show. And no matter how gymnastic the moves, how fast the runs up the staircase, her vocals continued to sound remarkably like the recorded

Amid half a dozen costume changes, her growing portfolio of safe-and-sure singles was fleshed out with an unsurprising disco medley. She returned for a rare moment of raunch on Naked, but another smile reassured us that this cheeky chappess was just having another giggle.

PAUL SEXTON



The lovely Louise, appreciated equally by children, mums, dads and libidinous lads

CONCERTS: Takemitsu flows too long in Birmingham; an evening of parlour songs in London

Defeated by time

CBSO/Elder Birmingham

THE best part of Mark Elder's concert with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra was the encore. The programme was ill-conceived from the start. In spite of late adjustments, it remained so to the end.

The original idea was to include both Takemitsu's From Me Flows What You Call Time and Ravel's Valses Nobles et Sentimentales in the first half of the concert and Berlioz's Symphonie Fantastique in the second. But that was reckoning without the length of the Takemitsu and the time needed to set up and dismantle it. The only way was to get the five groups of exotic percussion instruments in place before the concert, drop the Ravel, and restore the orchestra to its conventional layout during the interval.

So the audience entering Symphony Hall was greeted by what looked like festive streamers passing from the circle over the stalls to the front of the platform. In fact, they were representative of the "wind horse" streamers

traditionally used to divine the direction to be taken by Tibetan nomads. In this case, they were used by two of the percussionist soloists to activate wind chimes hanging at the front of the circle.

From Me Flows What You Call Time was written for the hundredth anniversary of Carnegie Hall in 1990 and first performed there by Nexus with the Boston Symphony Orchestra. The five percussionist members of Nexus were on hand on this occasion too, making their magical first entry some minutes after the piece had begun and mingling the sound of their crotales from the stalls with the orchestra on the platform. From that point on, in spite of a certain ritual fascination and some sensitively conceived textures and colour blends, it

was downhill into inconsequentiality. The performance of Berlioz's Symphonie Fantastique was a good one by any standards, each movement well shaped. But if Elder and the CBSO felt that they owed the audience an encore, after excluding the advertised Ravel item, the Hungarian March from The Damnation of Faust was not a good idea. Rather than outshine the last movement of the symphony by a devastatingly brilliant account of the march, it would have been wiser to just slip away with the Ballet des Sylphes.

So sweet and simple

THE olde worlde bumped up against quaintly old-style programme of vocal album leaves.

novel, then this — at least as far as the first half was concerned - would fit the bill nicely. Handel's Care selve was followed by a single song from Schumann's Op 39 Liederkreis; Mendelssohn's Wings of Song by Mahler's Lindenduft; and Saint-Saens by Reynaldo Hahn. Each song was delivered in the same diamantine timbre, coloured by the same smiling charm.

As Murphy's sweet and pure lyric soprano sounded Handel's angel trumpets, the gentleman in front of me began to absorb himself in a paper on The Implications of the Copernican principle for our future prospects. By the time the scent of linden-blossom GERALD LARNER had hung heavy over every lingering

CORI

est end 20 Decer

NCE OF WALES (17) 839 598

note of Mahler's Ich atmet einen Strauss's Wasserrose.

indeed. Its tendencies to the soubrette and the coloratura in matters of character and agility suited it well for the new on Tuesday when the Ameri- the rippling brooks, dreaming nightincan soprano Heidi Grant Murphy regales and fragrant roses of Strauss's made her London recital debut in a Standchen. And three songs by Fernando Obradors confirmed the sonrano's ease in European languages. But If someone were to plan an evening her penetration of their differing of parlour songs for an Edith Wharton musical idioms is as yet superficial as is her husband Kevin Murphy's grasp of their respective pianistic

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Heldi Grant Hurphy Wigmore Half

linden Duft, and intonation had wavered as vibrato increased. I found myself envying him his distraction. But such an aberrant thought was soon to be corrected by a totally spontaneous cry from the front stalls of Beautiful! beautiful!" after Richard And Murphy's voice is beautiful

For Samuel Barber and Aaro Copland the Murphys found a disarming simplicity. St Ita's Vision from the Hermit Songs was, alas, the only Barber offering in an evening short enough to accommodate more. An even greater simplicity would have made Copland's Long time ago and The little horses even more affective Murphy's considerable personal charm needs neither stremuous physical semaphore nor oversentimental rubato to send it winging on its way.

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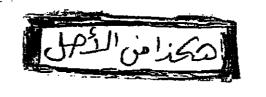
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> Ţ., استنسط المراجع



How is Birmingham Repertory Theatre planning to spend its £5.7 million of lottery funding? June Ducas talks to the artistic director

Snowed under with money

spond — some toing dark, others scrimping and saving to prevent a final curtain call - it is glad news hat the Birmingham Reperory Theatre has been awarded a £5.7 million stabilisation grant from the Arts Council oftery fund. Wiping out the heatre's £2 million deficit, the me-off sum of money will be paid over three years, more han doubling the annual subsidy. It will give the company breathing space to initiite ambitious new plans imed at keeping it out of the red

In September of ast year, in a radical move to assist erts organisations pelore they bleed to leath from lack of day-to-day cash, he Arts Council nunched a pilot tabilisation heme. For the rst time £17 milton of lottery

noney would be spent on srengthening artistic endeav-our, instead of on a plethora of apital projects. Early this ear. 15 out of 129 applicants vere selected. Assigning ex-lert advisers to help to prepare individual strategies, the arts Council announced the wards this autumn, with 3irmingham Rep taking the ion's share.

Previously, the council's polcy (or non-policy, depending in your stance) of cutbacks icross the board meant equal iolutions. Apart from putting numerous companies in jeop-ardy, it diminished the quality

of work. artistic ends." says Bill Alexunder, the company's artistic lirector for nearly five years. In the past, to balance the judget, we have had to alterrate large-scale works with wo or three-handers that are nappropriate for the size of ur stage. Now I can plan a a scene that involves more

each year. In baseball terms, we may play fewer games, but the strike rate will be better."

Better not least because the factor for the actors, directors and set designers who invest so much creative energy and emotions in them. Until now, after a mere six-week run the show was thrown into a skip," says Alexander. At the Royal Shakespeare Company, where he was an associate director for 14 years, it would have remained in the repertoire for several years. From next Sep-

stabilisation programme gets off the ground, the company's produc-tions will tour at home and abroad series of six - thus earning additional income. What impressed

the Arts Council

about Birming-

ham's bid for cash

was its concern for

artists, tomorrow's

productions each year 9

plan a

epic

audiences, and new writing. "Actors, as Peter Hall has said, have been subsidising the theatre for years." Alexander says. "We intend to pay them better. After all, we are asking people like Antuny Sher and Simon Callow to leave their homes. go on the road and live in digs. However, if our work is unique we will be offering

opportunities."

Part of the company's adventurous game plan is to reinvigorate the repertoire. "We can't go on doing Wilde. Shaw and Priestley till the cows-come home," Alexander says. There is a limit to how thrilling the umpteenth pro-duction of The Winslow Boy can be. Even John Godber. Willie Russell and Ayckbourn are becoming stale. The trouble is that contemporary dramatists have been stifled forced to keep down the number of roles in their plays." Consequently, few dare tackle



than two characters speaking to each other.

Reserving £1 million specifically for commissioning new work, the company can bring about a sea change. "We want to challenge writers to test them marvellous artistic themselves against our great dead playwrights, who were adept at juggling five or six characters on stage at once."

Aside from the 900-seat main house, the Rep's intimate studio space will concentrate on fostering burgeoning touches the up-and-coming generation. Over two seasons. ten new plays will be premiered, chosen on merit alone. A permanent group of eight actors will play them in repertory, taking a couple out to the local community. "Nothing quickens the learning process

for a dramatist like having work put on," says Alexander.
"If we are to boost dwindling audiences, we must offer a theatrical experience beyond compare.

Certainly, he has had tremendous success at Birmingham, which is why he is loyally supported by the local authority and the West Midland Arts Board. National critics have praised his direction of Harold Pinter's Old Times, with Tim Pigott-Smith. including The Merchant of Venice and The Tempest, Last summer, Janet Suzman's superb version of The Cherry Orchard received untold plaudits. A joint production with Johannesburg's Market Theatre, it was the start of crosscultural exchanges. And those

who missed the Rep's magical 1993 rendering of The Snow-man based on Raymond Briggs's modern fairytale, with a lengthened score by Howard Blake, should imniediately besiege the box office - it is on until the end of

January . Apart from highly regarded classics. Alexander envisages varying the bill with what he calls "discovery" plays - very fine dramas that are seldom performed. For ages, he has Dekker's masterpiece, The Shoemaker's Holiday, and an adaptation by Peter Whelan (with whom he has a close relationship) of Disraeli's novel Two Nations. Both demand huge casts and extravagant

If the Rep's prospectus flour-

ishes, it could become the blueprint for the future dev-elopment of British theatre. Effectively, it is becoming our third flagship company after the National and the currently beleaguered RSC - although Alexander insists that the company has its own identity and

Nevertheless, on his appointment, his mission was clear: to raise the profile of the Brummie theatre. The question was, could he give it Rattle had done for the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, and Peter Wright for the Birmingham Royal Ballet? This is his last chance to prove that he can.

● The Snowman is at the Birmingham Reportory Theatre (0121-230 4455) until Jan 24

NEW CLASSICAL CDS: Brits on Broadway, spice for Christmas and scintillating Prokofiev

MUSICAL

John Higgins

■ CABARET

Friedman/Dench/Pryce/ TER Masterworks CDTER. 1210 (two CDs) *** 520.99

WITH Chicago set for long residence in the Strand it is no bad moment to revisit Kander and Ebb's earlier hit, Cabaret. The cast of this 1993 recording is mainly British but the all-round verve generated, especially at the Kit Kat Klub, is strictly Broadway. For that, credit must go to the punchy conducting of John Owen Edwards. But the presence of two old hands has also

surely had its effect. Judi Dench, London's first Sally Bowles, is back, this time as Fraulein Schneider And Fred Ebb, who provided the lyrics, now also sings some of them in a gravelly voice as the Jewish fruiterer who marries her. Authenticity is assured.

Maria Friedman is careful not to make Sally too much of a star, a trap Liza Minnelli fell into in the movie. Miss Bowles is an interwar dropout, more talented in the bedroom than the green room, as Friedman suggests with a husky and sexy delivery. Cliff (Greg Edel-man), the boy who falls for her, is not much of a part musically and will always be under the shadow of the MC. a masterly study in greed and opportunism from Junathan Pryce. Note too John Mark Ainsley as a member of the Hitlerjugend.

> BAROQUE Hilary Finch

■ SCHUTZ/GABRIELI A Christmas Collection AAM/Goodwin Harmonia Mundi 907202

*** £26.99 THIS is the Christmas disc for those who prefer spice to sugar, and are partial to a warming glass of Glühwein on the side. Paul Goodwin and the Academy of Ancient Music have fashioned a series of 17th-century motets by Heinrich Schütz into an irresistible patterning with contemporary instrumental pieces. Unaccompanied choral writing afternates with a sumptuous palette of brass. and sturdy Germanic praise with sensuous Italianate meditation.

There are the sonorous Magnificats and Alleluias. but also the wonderfully intimate miniatures which came about as a result of the

increasing poverty of resources in the Dresden Court Chapel during the Thirty Years War. Soprano Tessa Bonner and alto Richard Wyn Roberts duet in a perfect, tiny Annunciation And, in the voice of tenor Andrew King. O Jesu, nomen dulce is, indeed, "honey to the mouth, melody to the ear", every bit as delicious as the wordplay - "In ore mel,

original Latin. Here, too, are Giovanni Gabrieli's splendid Venetian Canzonas for cornetts and sackbuts: and a Sonata by his colleague Francesco Usper in which the deep carmines of a choir of trumbones are pierced by the golden rays of high cornetts.

in aure melos" - of the

ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

■ PROKOFIEV Symphony No 5: Romeo New York Philharmonic/ Masur

Teldec 4509 96301-2 ***

THE New York Philharmonic and its music director Kurt Masur visited the Proms in 1996 and gave a memorable concert, including Brahms's Violin Concerto with Mutter the soloist, and Prokofiev's Romeo and Juliet music. The Masur/ Mutter account of the Brahms was released on disc last month, and now the Prokofiev, recorded in New York last year, is issued, coupled with the same composer's Fifth Symphony.

Any asperities in that Prom performance have been ironed out. The silky strings and sensual saxophone in Juliet the Young Girl are more refined, while the music of Romeo and Juliet together is rapturous. The orchestra sounds, if possible, even better in the symphony. The end of the first movement, for example. offers some splendidly rasping brass choruses and deep. sonorous string tone. In the slow movement, the string sound acquires an apr glacial purity and an unearthly beauty as the music glides to its tranquil conclusion. All the stops are pulled out for a scintiliating finale.

* Worth hearing ** Worth considering *** Worth buying

CDs reviewed in The Times can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498

Bizarre — but seldom boring

The somewhat chaotic autograph of Donizetti's
Elisabetta was unarthed piecemeal from the bwels of Covent Garden ten ears ago, and the Royal pera gave the work its remiere in concert form on uesday, a nice salute to the in his bicentenary

Unfortunately, not even the nost determinedly romantic urnalist could hail it as a ng-lost masterpiece. It is very interesting, in its proverance apart from anything ese, and that's about it. It started out as an early

pera semiseria (1827) in Nares under the impenetrable tile of Otto mesi in due ore (Eight Months in Two tours"). It was often revised bit less often performed in laly at the time; Donizetti timed it into an opera co-rique for Paris in the 1830s. then it failed to reach the sage (the theatre went bankripti; and then brought it to landon and combined the two ersions, in Italian, for Her Najesty's; once more, it failed to reach the stage (one reason was that the theatre burnt down) and ended up in the Bw Street cellars. The plot is almost as pica-

sque. The resourceful heroie's father, falsely accused of ime misdemeanour, has ten exiled to Siberia. She decides to walk to Moscow (or Petersburg, take your pick from the text) to clear his name (first act) and succeeds (third an). The second acr is crowded inth event she encounters first the false accuser, who out d guilt has become a ferrydan on the River Kama, then ahorde of Tartars who threatu (unsucressfully) her honour; there is a hurricane, "the ner bursts its banks" the sage directions announce thundly, and Elisabetta is sived by floating downstream on the false accuser's dead drughter's coffin. The Royal



Opera must be very glad that it wasn't having to stage all There is an unfinished feel

to the score as performed; had Donizetti seen it into the theatre, he would doubtless have revised and filled out some of the bald recitative, tightened one or two passages and turned some corners more gracefully, but the editorial team has rightly given it to us as the composer left it. As always with Donizetti, even routine passages are suddenly illuminated with a touch of instrumental colour or a startling harmonic progression that really make you sit up: Elisabetta is bizarre, but seldom boring. The intervention of the horde — "A rollicking band of Tartars we" would be W.S. Gilbert's version - is great fun.

arlo Rizzi, a renowned Donizettian, conducted with innate sympathy. and the good, solid cast gave their all - as listeners to next Monday's broadcast will hear. The needle-fine Andrea Rost negotiated Elisabetta's coloratura with aplomb (she has a merry waitz finale) and Alastair Miles brought great distinction to the false accuser's big scena of remorse.

There is a barely relevant comic character, sung with engaging style by Alessandro Corbelli, and the young Peruvian tenor Juan Diego Floréz took over at short notice as the father: his voice is as yet on the dry side, but he is intensely musical, has no fear of top notes and made much of his substantial third-act number. Yes, very interesting indeed.

RODNEY MILNES

Hooked on Never-say-die-Land

ccording to Barrie's stage-directions to Peter Pan, Captain Hook is tions to Peter Pan, Captain Hook is never more sinister than when he is most polite, and the elegance of his diction, the distinction of his demeanour show him to be of a different class from his crew". Add a modicum of sly selfmockery, and the ability so to sneer that his thin moustachies slant up to his eyebrows, and he could be talking of lan McKellen. His Hook is all quivering preciosity, mournful gentility and Old Etonian world-weariness. He is, as Barrie said he must be, the kind of pirate who says "sorry" to those he makes walk the plank - and, as Barrie didn't say, he is careful to pronounce the thing "plyaank" The version of Peter Pan at the National is directed by John Caird and is essentially the same, down to an ending not in the

> Peter Pan ***Olvier -- /

original, as the one he and Trevor Nunn created in 1982. There is a narrator in the avuncular form of Alec McCowen, who ambles about in deerstalker kit looking like Barrie and giving us extracts from those cosily verbose stage-directions. And Peter Pan himself is not a swaggering girl in drag but a boy: in Daniel Evans's performance a nice mix of callow bravado and skinny, angular vulnerability. Once again the designer is John Napier,

this time with the great Olivier revolve at his creative command. He starts with the elaborate outside and snug innards of the Darlings' Bloomsbury house. Then it's off, via St Paul's, to the most marvellous Never Land anyone could have imagined, let alone seen. It is a slowly-twirling mix of weeping willows and firs, lilies and cacti and poppies, cherry blossom and a tapering crag and a knotty, gnarled tree.

Napier certainly creates some stunning effects. Though Tuesday's premiere was slowed up by a diving mermaid dislocating her shoulder, or fin, the scene in the lagoon is especially deverly done, with Botticelli lovelies contemplating their fishes' tails while boys splash off a spongy rock into shiny, undulating sheets that look like turquoise waves. But never do you feel that the lovingly handled spectacle interferes with clarity or flow.

Perhaps the tone is lighter and, when battle on the pirate-ship commences, camper than it reputedly was back in 1982; but I don't think anybody in the audience was complaining. Let those who feel surly complain of the play's undoubted sentimentality, and those of earnest



Ian McKellen fits Barrie's view of Hook, and Daniel Evans is a brave Peter

disposition inspect its Freudian undertones. Yes, it is recognisably the work of the Barrie who tried to please his rejecting mother by dressing up and imitating her favourite son, who had died in an accident. Yes, everyone in the play craves a woman, not for the old, obvious reasons. but to nurse and fuss over him. Yes, the hero tries indefinitely to prolong an idealised boyhood, as poor, sad Barrie would have liked to have done.

But do you care when you can see

Blakley's Wendy fly under the stars and over Big Ben? Or when a Tinker Bell with a sort of Mae West mumble swirls in spotlight round the lost boys' cave? No. I don't think so.

McKellen gravely hamming it up on his

rococo poop and skull-decorated deck? Or

when you watch Evans's Pan and Claudie

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE • This review appeared in late editions of The

PUBLISHED IN A LIFETIME: BOOKS THAT SHOWED THE WAY

.Bel Mooney found her horizons broadened by Sylvia Plath

b. 1946

L then boyfriend gave me Ariel (published by Faber that year) "to broaden your mind". He was right: my course offered one optional modern paper which ended on the eve of the Second World War. I immersed myself in her poetry's savage depths like someone stum-

bling across an oasis in what seemed like a desert of Beowulf, Milton and Pope. At 20, I identified with Plath's almost-hysterical selfassertion - what Rich-ard Wilbur called "brilliant negative". It led me to Ted Hughes. of course, and to Robert Lowell, Anne Sex-

ton, Hart Crane and Theodore Roethke. Now I can return to Plath and value afresh her genius in transforming a personal, crippling disability into universal art. I have lost the youthful yearning for "relevance", although in fact the poems are closer to the dark ambivalences of a married woman with children. Ariel still stands as a revolutionary text, its axe-words splitting the silence of self-denial and ringing out the equal right to rage against

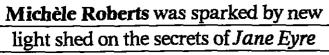
the darkness, but embrace it too. In 1974, reading that Philip Larkin had produced his first volume of poetry for ten years. I rushed out and bought two copies of High Windows. Then I respond-

n 1965, in my first term at University College London, my de Société and This be the Verse, as well as the sweet sadness of The Explosion. Now I return again and again to poems like Show Saturday, Going, The Trees and Cut Grass. embracing their quietly lyrical conversatism with a relief that would have shocked my younger self. Middle age, perhaps - but

also an impotent rage against the rebranded blandness of this "new" Britain. How Larkin would have set on his hounds of

During the Seventies I discovered the novels of Patrick White, and read all of them voraciously, even register-ing for a (still unwritten) PhD. The

Tree of Man stands tall even in White's rich, dense forest - one of the great spiritual novels of this half-century. A young man, Stan Parker, hacks out a home and a life in the bush, takes a wife, fights in the Great War, experiences flood and fire, grows old and dies in his garden, surrounded now by tacky suburbs — leaving his wife Amy to mourn and life to go on. The novel is about that majesty within the silences of "ordinary" people. In elliptical, daringly poetic, yet paradoxically flat prose, The Tree of Man revivifies ideas of grace and redemption with an intensity that dazzles the unbeliever.



b. 1949

n 1850 Charlotte Bronte wrote to her publisher. George Smith: "You should be very glad that books cannot talk to each other as well as to their readers'. Conceive the state of your warehouse if such were the case... Terrible too would be the quarrelling... Still I like the notion of a mystic whispering among the let-

tered leaves - and perhaps at night ... such a whispering may be heard — by those who have ears to

One of those who did listen was Jean Rhys. She read Jane Eyre wrote the story which lurks in its silences. In Wide Sargasso Sea Rhys took one of the works of

genius of the 19th century and turned it inside-out to create one of the works of genius of the 20th century.

Genius, a term invented by men and used to describe men, excludes women, but I use it of both Bronte and Rhys to point out the paradox of their achievement: both of then wrote brilliantly, as no one had done before, about women, and both force us to question whether femininity isn't a kind of straitjacket in some cases.

In Wide Sargasso Sea (published in 1966) this brilliance ensures that not only is Bertha Mason's story brought slap bang up to date, but

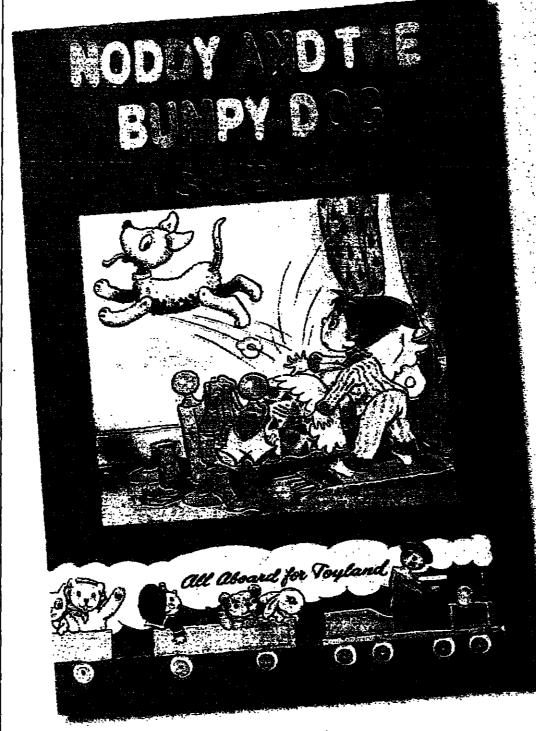
that Jane Eyre itself can never be the same again. Charlotte Bronte's Mrs Rochester is compiled from 19th-century white, middle-class terrors of black people, female sexuality and madness, all rolled together into a figure who's part diseased animal and part vampire. Rhys takes us back to the beginning of the story, to an island paradise

lost; it's an astonishing novel, which stands on its own. I first read it when I was 15 or so and have felt haunted by it ever since.

A personal definition of a classic is a novel I never tire of rereading. Paul Bailey's Gabriel's Lament (1986) is that. I came upon it after catching up on all the women writers left out

of my education. It was charming to encounter a male writer who wanted to investigate what makes men tick. Gabriel's Lament is a masterpiece of sly, wrenching, tragi-comedy that takes suburban life and fathers and sons and immortalises them through the

The Ballad of Peckham Rye (1960) by Muriel Spark is another such novel, completely surprising, funny and cruel. Spark changed our literary landscape with her books; this tale is unmatchable and unmissable: gloriously and insistently original.



nfluences which last longest start in childhood. Thanks to Enid Blyton's Noddy books, I still overvalue personal independence, love the underdog, crave cakes at teatime and mistrust Mr

The writer has been reviled for undernanding language: but you don't notice that when you're patronised by everybody and babytalk seems the natural form of adult

expression.

She has been condemned as politically incorrect, but Toy Town is nothing if not a plural society. where Sally Skittle and the Wobbly Man are unencumbered by their disabilities. Her books are not well written, but their greatness lies in the depiction of character. Noddy is one of the most under-esteemed subtle, complex personality, whose moodiness, selective arrogance and wildness of judgment repeatedly test the affection of his readers and friends.

Busybodies may banish him from the shelves, but his place in tradition is secure. I love best the story of Noddy and the Bumpy Dog (1957) — a typical fable in which the under-appreciated outsider, "waggy and licky and noisy and rough" — saves the day and wins acceptance.

convincing. A dog is also the hero in my favourite Iris Murdoch novel, The

7 hen I first started out as a

Felipe Fernández-

Armesto says thanks to Noddy



Nice and the Good (1968). 1 discovered Iris Murdoch and Oxare confused in my mind. Her books, in which the characters' intellectualism never inhibits their spontaneity, perfectly mirrored the real life of the university. The talent in which she surpasses every other living English novelist is in making people behave utterly surprisingly. yet with total consistency, so that every twist seems both strange and

A few writers of fiction are models for historians: from Borges, for example, you learn how to approach objectivity by shifting perspective; from Lampedusa, how to evoke a sense of period. Iris Murdoch's insights into the routine nature of surprise have helped me understand the characters I have to to deal with. Tiresomely, they write their own plots and do it with a freedom an unassisted imagination

could never give them. There are a lot of history books in my life, but for the present purpose one elects itself: Joseph Needham's Science and Civilisation in China (1956-in progress). Like all genius-es, Needham could be misled by an excess of cleverness. He espoused an odd, faintly mystical mixture of High Church Anglicanism and naive Maoism. He had daft convictions, such as that undocumented Chinese explorers had founded Mesoamerican civilisation.

Yet his masterpiece is unmatched admire in history: scholarship ambition, sensibility, fidelity to evidence, boldness in argument, impassioned curiosity, unlimited range - and sheer mastery, sure pilotage amid vast oceans of material.

He died leaving it unfinished, but the first few volumes changed the way I looked at the world. When those creatures of my imagination. the Galactic Museum-Keepers. look back on our past, they will centre their display on China and cram Western civilisation into a corner of some small vitrine.

Howard Davies fled Manchester in the company of David Storey

The year of my birth, 1951, has never been cited as a great turning point in the world of letters. And some of the long-lived 20th-century writers for whom I care most, John Cowper Powys, for example, or Wyndham Lewis, had written their best works well before

But a good few of the most dogb. 1951

eared read and reread books on my shelves were first published in my lifetime. Erich Heller's The Disinherited Mind - essays in modern German literature and thought appeared first in 1952. I did not, I think, read the first edition immediately on publica-tion; my copy is dated 1966. As a teenager, i-

first inhaled the excitement of Goethe, Nietzsche, Rilke, Spengler and Kafka through Heller. The theory of eternal recurrence was heady stuff for a Manchester Grammar School boy in the Sixties and it remains so today. No other work of literary criticism has left me with such an enduring love for its subject. Even Spengler's Decline of the West remains suffused in a

But wild-eyed enthusiasm for gloomy Germans was no basis for a career, so I drifted towards modern history and thence to diplomacy. My interest was lukewarm, however, until I read A. J. P. Taylor's Origins of the Second

World War, first published in 1961. There remain few historians who, like Taylor, can reach the general reader with a sharp and original thought. Perhaps in Norman Davies we have found another, but he needs 1,500 pages to make his point.

David Storey is not a sceptic, though his prose is as limpid as Taylor's. Flight into Camden, published in 1961, is for me, his masterpiece. Perhaps, as an ex-northern

grammar schoolboy in London, I identified too much with Yorkshire-born Margare, who flees south to an adulterous affair with a teacher in Camden. Though I was from the other side of the Pen-

nines, my teacher was an unmarried Australian and we lived in Islington — a wholly different cultural landscape.

The clash of cultures and mores

was, nonetheless, quite sharp. And I was thrilled by Storey's insights into my human condition. For years I bored friends with aggressive argument to the effect that Storey is Britain's greatest postwar novelist. I was touched when a friend gave me a first edition - but it was clear that he did so to close off the debate. Storey himself has, sadly, fallen silent. Flight into Camden will live on, though, even if Yorkist immigrants now philan-der in Dalston or Poplar.

Roger Scruton was cloistered in Eliot's mysterious rose garden

b. 1944

any writers publishing in my lifetime have had a profound effect on me, even though no single work encapsulates their influence. This is true - to take four examples at random - of Leavis, Larkin. Plath and Solzhenitsyn. Asked to choose three books, rather than three authors. I finally settled on these: Four Quartets, by T. S. Eliot, Philosphical Investigations, by Ludwig Wittgenstein, and the trilogy of novels (Molloy, Malone Dies, and The Unnameable) by Samuel Beckett. These works have two very impor-tant things in common: first, that

every word and every implication are meticulously weighed; secondly, that the movement (whether of thought or feeling) is in each case entirely compelled and never imported. In Eliot, Wittgenstein, and Beckett, you encounter three contrasting forms of literary urgency, in

which words flow from rightness and exactness that cannot be improved upon. (So, at any rate, it seems to me.) And with this. formal perfection there goes an unbrookable sincerity which forces you to respond to these works, not as literature only, but as visions of the human world — which is to say, as literature in its highest form.

I came across Four Ouartets at school; it was one of a small collection of books chosen by Faber for its first series of paperbacks. I did not understand, nor do I fully understand even now, the meaning of that rose garden, with its invisible presences, and its dry concrete pool. But the words sounded deep within me. I was a modern adolescent, severed from prayer and abstinence and from every religious idea. Four Quartets conveyed a new insight into the modern world. Under the impact of those carefully distilled images, the place in which I found myself became a place of pilgrimage. The modern soul could still, Eliot told me, find redemption and tranquilli-ty in the midst of disease. Was this a trick of language? Thirty-five years later, I can say with conviction that it was not.

Beckett too was favourite reading matter at school. I loved those careful, tetchy sentences shapei from the language of accusastion but rebuking no one in particula: and for nothing at all. Beckett? anti-heroes were my role models. and in time I came to discover the hidden wisdom in those most poetit

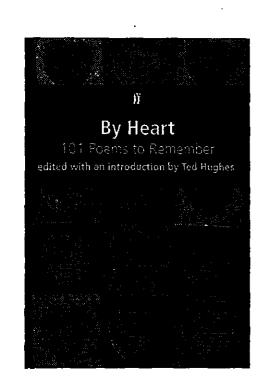
of modern texts - the wisdom that looks death in the fact and exchanges a corny joke with it.

It was during my first year at university that I discovered Philosophical. Investigations. Heart and brain were oppressed by the donnish prose of academic philosophy and Wittgenstein came as a bolt from the blue

prose which deals with with irony and imagery and so animated by thought that I was cured at once of the doubts tha threatened to abort my philosophic cal career. Moreover, I found is this work arguments which radi cally altered my vision of reality, in particular the subtle discussion of the self and its grammar which finally lifted philosophy clear (for me as for many others) from the cesspit of phenomenology. Repeaed rereadings have convinced mi that this work is the greatest wor. of philosophy since Kant's Critique Of Pure Reason, and the true antidote to the pseudo-science that is everywhere undermining thought and wisdom.

There is one other thing that all the three books I have chosen have in common: they are all deadacknowledging, and therefore lifeaffirming. Most books published now are, by contrast, death-fearing and therefore life-negating.

A gift they'll never forget.



Malcolm Bradbury steered his course by Saul Bellow's compass and travelled through a winter night

young writer and obsessive novelist in the mid-Fifties, my ambitions were shaped by a small number of central books. I'm sure every writer has a pile of such books: books that are more than books, that create the belief that writing matters, that literary vocation is important, that there are always fresh ways in which the narrative of one's age can be told. I'd read widely in fiction: many Victorian novels, a lot of the great "modern novelists", like Lawrence, Forster, Woolf, Gide and Mann. All had a considerable influence, but in truth by the mid-Fifties the modern novel was already not just a generation but a political and artistic culture away. The important books are closer in time, the ones that catch era, generation, mood. I found them first mostly in Existentialist Paris. Two books that greatly mattered to me were Albert Camus' The Outsider, first published in 1942, and Samuel Beckett's magnificent tragicomedy,

Molloy, which ap-peared in 1951. Yet I felt far greater affinity with American fiction, then beginning to sweep into Britain. Somewhere at the start of the Fifties 1 picked up a book by a writer I hadn't heard of: it was Saul Bellow's second novel The Victim. It too had the prevailing exis-

tential anxieties; it acknowledged the Holocaust and nuclear unease, the mood of urban aimlessness, of moral disaster seeking moral redemption. Written in English, it deployed a vital, nearlyrical prose. It influenced my writing, steered my way into American fiction. Like many British



Jeremy Irons and Meryl Streep in the film of Fowles's novel

writers, I've followed Bellow's work with passion ever since, and regard his Herzog (1964) as one of the best modern books. It wasn't until the end of the

Sixties I found an English novel that had such a strong and direct impact. Then came John Fowles's The French Lieutenant's Woman (1969), to my mind one of the best British postwar novels. It built a cunning, extraordinary bridge between the grand Victorian novel, with its social grasp. and the anxious, textually self-critical mod-

ern novel - where character is a paradox, narrative a problem, the author's authority always

unsure. joins my list of core books. My own writing changed, as writing does; I grew ever more fascinated by the multiplicity of the means of fiction, the extraordinary richnesses of

genre. In 1981 Italo Calvino published If on a winter's night a traveller. Maybe it takes another writer to love it as much as I do. It joins the special list of novels about novels - Tristram Shandy, Jacques the Fatalist, Ulysses - that show the complexity, variety, won-der of the form. Ten different stories in different genres are started. There's a reader (indeed. two of them) in the text. It's a book about the great play of fiction: why we need it, what it does to us. For some time it's seemed clear to

me that I've been living through an age of the novel. Each generation finds its distinctive uses for fiction, generates its own originalities. When the record is properly written, the novels of this century's second half will, I believe, seem quite as powerful as those of the videly studied first. For me the books I've mentioned have special meaning, forming the tiny pile I'd despair to be without. But they also form milestones in the great 20thcentury journey of fiction, which has been a good one for us all.

Helen Dunmore became intoxicated by the rowdy humour of Kingsley Amis

was a year old when Lucky Jim was published, in an England of landladies, cars with starting-handles, guiltless smoking, exservicemen and Bakelite mugs. I can't remember when I first read it - too early, probably, to get all the jokes. But I loved it then, as I do now. It has always made me laugh out loud. Here is the charmless Margaret in a rictus of

self-abandon: "She drained her glass with a quick, gay move-ment 'Beer,' she said, Buy me beer. The night is young." There is Jim's nightmare weekend with the Welches, his denuncia-tion of Bertrand Welch as "You bloody old towser-faced bootfaced totem pole, on a

crap reservation", and finally the tour-de-force of his drunken public lecture on Merrie England. Kings-ley Amis is brilliant on altered states of mind: drunkenness, madness, frenzy. Lucky Jim is a flawless

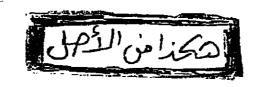
comic novel, When I was 21 and working as a teacher in Finland, I first read Doris Lessing's novels. I borrowed them from Turku public library, and would lie on my bed during the long dark afternoons reading about Martha Quest's life as if my own depended on it. Her journey from a remote African farm to Salisbury, then on to London, mirrors Les-

sing's own life. Doris Lessing changes her readers: you cannot think in quite the same way once you have experienced that sensory power and intelligence.

Osip Mandelstam was a Russian poet who died during the Stalinkt purges. He was one of the Acment group, and his work wasn't purished in English until many years after his death. Hs b. 1952

wife, Nadezhda, menorised it, or it would have been lost entirely. His poetry has influenced me deeply sine 1974, when I bought his Selected Poems, translated by David McDuff. Too deepy perhaps. But slowly the excess of influence sifts away, leaving only

be of real benefit to a young poet. Mandelstam is a great poe, saturated in classical culture ye tenderly responsive to everyday life. The Rivers Press edition offers the Russian text as well as McDuff's translations, although know just enough Russian to read the poems aloud. Above all I hear the echo of Mandelstam's triunphant affirmation in appalling times: "With my bloodless mouth! whisper:/ I was born in the night of the second and third/ of January n the untrustworthy year/ of '91, and the centuries/ surround me with



TIMES WRITERS MAKE A PERSONAL CHOICE

Kenneth Baker ventured beyond Burke

and then waited for Godot

b. 1934

ost of my political beliefs were fashioned by books written before 1934, principally the writings of Edmund Burke. Any child of my generation could not but help be inspired by the rumbling rhetoric of Churchill, which evoked patriotism, sacrifice and pride our history. But of all the books on conservatism written in

the past 50 years, the one which made the most appeal to my sort of conservatism is Michael Oakeshott's Rationalism in Politics and other Essays

The reason why the Conservative Party has survived is that deep in our nation there is a conservative disposition which reveals it-

self in certain conservative attitudes. Oakeshott writes: "The disposition to be conservative is then warm and positive in respect of enjoyment and correspondingly tool and critical in respect of change and innovation ... What others plausibly identify as timidity he recognises himself as rational prudence. What others interpret as nactivity, he recognises as a dispoition to enjoy, rather than exploit. The second book is Four Quarets (1944) by T.S. Eliot. In these our poems. Eliot writes of the importance of custom and convenion, of the significance of regularity and of a respect for history. All of these aspects of human life are, at least for the moment, unfashionable. Yet they are the very things that make the human condition bearable and they are the essential buttresses of a civilised society. It has been for me a consolation and a reaffirmation of faith to be reminded that the past, present and future

are but part of a great continuum: "The moment of the rose and the moment of the yew-tree/ Are of equal duration. A people without history/ is not redeemed from time, for history is a pattern/ Of timeless moments. So, while the light fails/ On a winter's afternoon, in a secluded chapel/ History is now

and England."

My third book is Samuel Beckett's Waiting for Godot (1955). When I saw the first production of this play at the Criterion Theatre in the Fifties I was completely mesmerised. I was lucky in that I had been taken regularly by my parents to the Richmond Rep where we had seen plays by writers such as Pinero, Priestley, Maugham, Rattigan and occasionally Shaw. Godor was utterly different: two tramps waiting for something, for someone, and meeting a great, bullying figure. The play awakened in me an awareness of the greater complexity of human desire, ambition and purpose.

Ian McIntyre confesses his admiration for the 18th-century London of Boswell

The striking title of D.R. Davies's study of the General Confession, Down Peacomes from an old homily called The Misery of Man - Wherefore, good people, lit us beware of such hypocrisy, vain-glory, and justifying of ourselves. Let us look upon our feet; and then down peacock's feathers,

down proud heart, down vile clay, frail and brittle vessels." The book appeared during the war. Davies vrote it because he discovered that nobody else had ever thought of doing so. I am all or clouting the secu-arised mind — hard," he wrote in his preface. The General Confestion is a magnificent

|ledge-hammer!" I read it when I with many important map refernces that have stayed with me. The second book lodged in my nind from those formative years vas by an opposition backbencher, Quintin Hogg, and his book was called The Case for Conservatism. If was published at the tail end of 1947, little more than two years after his party had suffered a ciushing defeat

Hogg sets out basic Conservative principles and ideas, and examines the case of his Labour and Liberal opponents. He does so robustly and entertainingly. He shows no incli-

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nation to snuggle up to any other party for short-term advantage. He reflects, in a cheerful, Ken Clarkeish sort of way that no government, however good, remains popular indefinitely. "An exultant majority enthusiastically proclaims a new era to a delighted electorate ... War, poverty, ugliness, squalor, disease, bad weather

will vanish in the midst..." Fifty years on, in all sorts of ways, it remains a tremendously good read. My third seminal book is Boswell's

London Journal 1762-1763 (1950). It appeared during my first year at Cambridge. Nobody with a professional interest in the 18th century can get very far without the help of American

is's magisterial edition of the correspondence of Horace Walpole, J.L. Clifford's Young Samuel Johnson, for example.

But for sheer pleasure and re-freshment I go back to the Journal. It stands, as its editor Frederick Pottle puts it in his wise and penetrating introduction, "between the poles of Pepys and Rousseau." It is neither autobiography nor apologia. Boswell more than once said he was writing a history of his own mind. In doing so he produced one of the comic masterpieces of our literature.



love Italo Calvino's Invisible Cities (1972; English edition. 1974). Does that seem dramatic? I don't know of any other way to approach books except through the heart. To me, books, real ones, are intimacy, abandonment, risk and pact. They are a blood bond: a connection between writer and reader that begins in the moment of possession and is reinforced through time. My private library is located twice; once in my study, again, in my self. These are the moving books that travel with me:

a cargo of images and language unseparated from life. In so much as I am, they are. until ten years after it was first published. When I did read it, I was 23 and writing Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit. In that book I did not want either to be tethered to autobiography or marconed in make-believe. All quest stories feature a seeker and a sought, or call it hero and prize. Calvino fused these motifs. In a long series of short set pieces, the hero Marco Polo recollects the strange cities of his travels to the omnipotent Kublai Khan. Gradually these cities begin to fold in upon one another, and we realise that only one city is being Jeanette

Winterson loved Calvino's Venice



described: Venice. As unlived pasts and beckoning futures become equally real, or equally unreal, the only possibility is invention.

I read The Diaries of Virginia Woolf (five volumes, 1915-41; published by the Hogarth Press 1977-84) one by one as they appeared. To me they were talismanic. I was 17 when Volume One was published and saving up to go to Oxford. Woolf's work, and bit by bit, her life, were an affirmation of all I felt to be valuable. Valuable and fragile, for it is so easy to question to

death the importance of art and culture in our society. Is it for everyone? Is it elitist? Who should pay? These are uniquely 20thcentury questions and ones which Woolf tried to answer, had to answer, because for her, art and life were written together on the same page. In these diaries there is detachment, analysis, objectivity, wit, but the fluid that fills the pen is

As a teenager, and now 20 years

later, this hauling together of life's elements — the ride on the top of a bus, the seat in the stalls at the opera, a book to read, a holiday, a dog barking. Dante by the fire, and - seems to me to be a true rendering of the account. Art is made out of human passions. emotions, energies and cannot be separated from them, any more than human life can live a single

the stuff of life itself.

day without telling itself a story. Art, when it happens, challenges the "I" that we are. The poems in The Thing in The Gap Stone Stile by Alice Oswald (1996) are not confrontational, angry, political: their shock is in the renewal of image and language that puts our everyday cliches and dullness to shame. I bought 20 copies.

Lisa Jardine, cyberfeminist, mourns the manual to her Apple Mac

b. 1944

Books have been a crucial influence in my life since childhood — one of my earliest memories is of going alone to Boots with a precious book token and picking out the higgest book I could find, working on the principle that I wanted the maximum number of words possible for my money. It is really hard to narrow those which have af-

fected me down to a mere three,
I was still reading mathematics at Cambridge when a friend reading English gave me Raymond Williams's The Long Revo-lution (1961). From Williams I learnt that the creative mind had a special part to play in shaping contemporary

society. I discovered from him why art and literature were of critical importance for someone with hurning left-wing political principles. The Long Revolution was probably responsible for my switching from science to humanities a year later. certainly a turning point in my life.

Some years later. Salman Rushdie's Midnight's Children. published in 1981, persuaded me that the novel at its greatest is still an important force for understanding and change in the world. The mad, bad and funny adventures of Rushdie's hero Saleem, born with India's independence at midnight on August 15, 1947, are an allegory for India's own progress to maturity. The novel also showed me that the English novel had given way to the world novel in English.

My last life-changing book has to be both much more banal and yet in the end more far-reaching in its impact on my life. It is the Apple Macinush user manual which introduced me to my first Mac

somewhere around 1985. The manual is long lost, but the access it gave me to the world of new technology permanently transformed my working life. I can't even remember writing longhand: composing on a typewriter is a dim. distant memory. My old Selectrix typewriter (itself a piece of

new technology in its day) turned up in our loft when we were clearing it out last weekend. My son thought it was a valuable antique, but I only got that in the Seventies.

Since a lost manual can hardly he considered a personal land-mark. I substitute for it Sadie Plant's Zeros and Ones: Digital Women and the New Techno-culture (1997). I laughed all the way through her mischievous account of the special relationship of women to cyberculture. describes my own love affair with new technology beautifully. Let's all be evberfeminists as we approach the millennium.

Peter Stothard sneaks under the wire with Dodds's irrational Greeks

b. 1951

Then the rules of this Christmas game were first formulated, I felt confident of at least one choice, Eduard Fraenkel's three-volume text and commentary on Aeschylus's Agamemnon, the quintessential work of modern classical scholarship by the finest scholar I have ever been privileged to hear.

Some of my allotted words would have been used to defend his art of line-by-line analvsis against trendy recent theories that such enterprises are smallminded. "atomistic" and damaging to overall comprehension of the texts. Sadly, it turned out that

Fraenkel's Agamemnon was published in 1950, a few months before my date My second choice. The Greeks

and the Irrational by E. R. Dodds, was almost barred for the same reason. Dodds too wrote brilliant commentaries but he also liberated a lifetime of classical students from the view that every Ancient Greek was a logical little Aristotle at heart. His most famous collection of lectures, delivered in 1949 but not published, thankfully, until 1951, is an exquisite chronicle of ancient

It tellingly poses the question of why an open society of consumers and free individuals may be the one in most danger from malign irrational forces. And, no small thing in itself. Dodds's work also inspired Donna Tartt's wonderful novel. published in 1992, The Secret

Dodds was a close friend of W. H. Auden, from whose work I would certainly have chosen if his best poems had not been from the

years before 1951. The closest to a disciple of Auden today is James Fenton. My second book is his collection. The Memory of War. first published in 1982, which includes A German Requiem, Dead Soldiers and The Skip. all of which are poems that both power themselves into the general

canon and spark intense personal recollections of sub-

Safely inside my life came Michael Oakeshott's Rationalism in Politics and Other Essays, published in 1962, which spawned decades of doubts about whether any government minister who promised to improve condition X by action Y knew even what he was endeavouring to do, let alone how to do it. We are now in that part of the political cycle when rational progress is back in fashion. Labour leaders are daily strapping logic more tightly to their clipboards. It must be time to read Oakeshott

A. S. Byatt was awakened by the resonant voice of Wallace Stevens

b. 1936

y three books, it turns out, are all to do with the problem that has obessed me since I began to think hy make works of art at all? Eterature is what I most care about, but I had a socially responsithe upbringing, and have, for a risolute agnostic, a religious temprament. So I was never quite sure that literature ought to matter as nuch as it did (and does) to me. My first choice was in fact only published as a book in 1997. It is Bastentialists and Mystics, Iris

Nurdoch's collected writings on philosophy and literature. These esays over the years have given me all sorts of new ways of thinking about art. morals. politics. Freud and Narx. Her essay Against Dryness in 1901 was a wise analysis of the forms of the 20th-century novel. and their relation to the forms of our political life and thought

Her essays on "goodness" combine psychological understanding, moral ambition, and ebquent prose. I continue to learn from her. She is a wonderful antidote to easy pessimism.

My second choice, rather to my sirprise, turned out to be Lionel Irilling's Beyond Culture, first published in 1966. What I first spined from this book was a way of thinking about what "culture" was, a way which was subtle and not stilling Trilling has a passionately ipnic detachment from movenents of thought which he diagnoses sympathetically and sharply. This collection of essays deals with tle institutionalisation of rebellion. the creation of an orthodoxy of jubversion", the movement into the political structures of universithe of forms of modern" criticisms of "society" which change their rature by becoming accepted be-liefs. He is interested in the way in which we increasingly value the group before the individual. In his essay. Freud: Within and Beyond Culture, he writes of Freud's emphasis on a biological residue of human quality which is resistant to cultural control. Like him, I find this idea liberating. We have lived through a time of ideological absolutes and he has proved a

wrily accurate and benign prophet. My last choice had to be the thing itself, the work of art in words, and it was easy to choose the Collected Poems of Wallace Stevens (1955). Discovering Stevens, at the end of the Sixties, as a woman, was like first hearing the complicated rhythms of Shakespeare and Mil-

ton as a girl. Stevens. as a poet, has the quality Matisse has as painter, the perfect arrangement of the elements of his medium into new, and surpris ing, and inevitable forms. I heard him before I read him, on a record, through a halfopen door, intoning The Idea of Order at Key West which em-

bodies our "rage for order" in light and sound and elemental water, primitive, passionate and intellectual. I go back and back to Notes Towards a Supreme Fiction, which combines weather with the gods, analysis with play, and scatters new-minted bright images across every page with mexhaustible largesse. All of us perhaps, have one or two phrases which we repeat to ourselves in time of difficulty, and one of mine is from Notes: "To discover an order as of/ A season, to discover summer and know it! To discover winter and know it well, to find./ Not to impose, not to have reasoned at all,/ Out of nothing to have come on major weather/It is possible, possible,

possible. It must be! Possible." I think what all my three books have in common, also, is the patience to attempt to find, not to impose, the elegant scepticism, the fierce questioning, which is the antidote to ideology.

Antonia Fraser learnt passion from the pen of Margaret Mitchell

b. 1932

read The Last Days of Hitler by Hugh Trevor-Roper shortly after it came out in 1947. At that point I was studying history and hoping to get into Oxford. Since I had been brought up to assume that history mysteriously came to a full stop in 1914 — leaving us to wander on aimlessly without actually contributing to it - 1 was stunned to read this dazzling study of events only a few years past. Subsequently, I read the updated version, since a lot of material was obviously still unknown in the late Forties. What struck me was the fact that the basic deductions of the

trained historical mind were, give or take new evidence, still valid; while the lucidity and elegance of the style were an inspiration. Twenty years later.

struggling to write my first historical biography, Mary Queen of Scots, I was especially concerned about the problem of balance. Concentrate on the subject by all means, but what do

you do about the background? I knew the principle of the thing. In an ideal biography, the reader should be painlessly educated about the period while never losing sight of the central figure. But how do you achieve that in practice? It's a problem, incidentally, that I've never found particularly easy to solve even with subsequent books. (When writing The Six Wives of Henry VIII, I was sorely tempted to deal with the complicated religious changes of the day with a single sentence: "And so the Reformation took place".) My good fortune then was to read Robert Blake's Disraeli, first published in 1966, which seemed to me then, and still seems, the model of political biography. Not only was the character of Dizzy

vividly and sympathetically - but

not uncritically - illuminated, but I

also acquired an understanding of

the 19th-century Tory party hither-to denied to me. Furthermore, I

understood for the first time how it was possible to be a Tory, emotionally - just as well, perhaps, since ! was then married to a Tory MP.

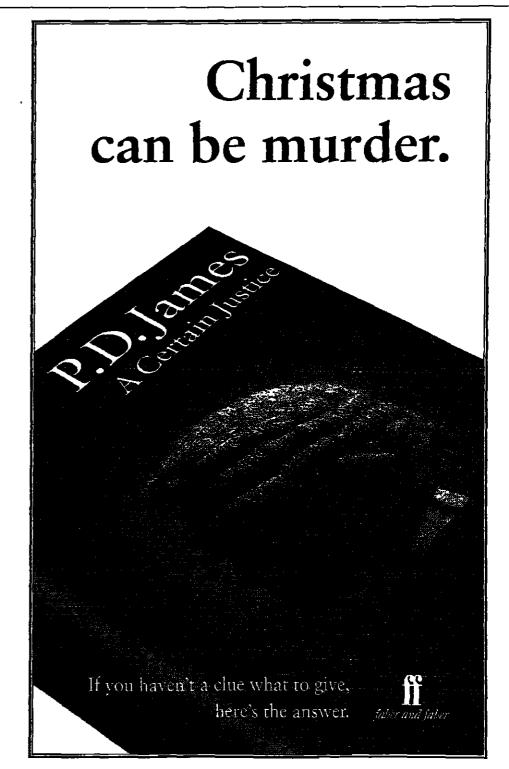
My romantic education, as op-posed to the other sort, was entirely derived from novels. It would be possible to list them in chronological order (as I read them) and thus to chart the various stages of my own sentimental journey. Rather than do that, which might take up more space in The Times than has been bargained for. I will simply cite the Mother of Them All: Gone With the Wind by Margaret Mitch-ell. This was first published in 1936. but of course, precocity

can only go so far. In fact I first read it when I was 13 and in the middle of taking my School Certificate exam. I can still remember living in the dream of love and unhappiness which the book induced in me, and the look of the school library copy. pages badly crumpled

and even tear-stained by those who had gone before me. I got very bad grades in my English exams (my actual set book was The Mayor of Casterbridge, poor stuff from my particular viewpoint) but I had at least majored in Passion.

● IN METRO ON SATURDAY: Books of the Year - plus Erica Wagner on Joe Gould's Secret, Michael Gove recommends the Private Eye Annual 1997 and Jeffrey Archer reveals how he writes

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Leader entitled to sue his own council

Regina v Bassetlaw District Council, Ex parte Oxby Before Lord Justice Hobbouse, Lord Justice Millett and Lord

[Judgment December 11] Where the grant of planning permission was tainted by actual or apparent bias on the part of the councillors involved in the decision-making process, it was legitimate for the council, through its leader, to bring judicial review proceedings to have those planraing decisions declared illegal and void, instead of revoking the decisions under section 97 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, thereby avoiding the need to pay compensation under section 107 of the Act.

The Court of Appeal so stated allowing an appeal by the applicant, Graham Anthony Nicho las Oxby, from the dismissal by Mr Justice Popplewell on Decem-ber 11, 1996 of his application for judicial review of two planning decisions of Bassetlaw District Council dated February 21, 1994 and October 14, 1994, respectively.

On the appeal, the respondents were the interested third parties. Clarence and Frances Mabel Howeroft who had been granted planning permission to develop for domestic housing two plots of agricultural land at Grange Farm. Ollerton Road, Retford, Nottinghamshire, owned by them.

The applicant was applying as the leader of the council and the chairman of its policy and re-sources committee which resolved to fund the application and not

Mr David Mole, OC and Mr Paul Brown for the applicant: Mr Alun Alesbury for the Howcrofts.

LORD JUSTICE HOBHOUSE id that central to the matter was the question whether the Howcrofts should be paid compensation of about £2 million for the revocation of the planning consents under sections 97 and 100 of the Town and Country Planning

If the council, through the applicant, succeeded in obtaining a declaration that the planning consents were void, the council would not have to invoke section 97 and would not have to pay compensa-

In 1992, the Howerofts made a joint venture agreement with Mr Frank Coney which made him

Before Lord. Justice Mantell, Mr

Justice Hooper and Judge Michael

if evidence was to be received orally from a witness who was

aged 14 or over at the date of the hearing then that evidence had to

following a solemn affirmation.

The failure to administer the oath

was not a mere technicality and

amounted to a material

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in a reserved

Peter Edward Sharman against

his convictions in September 1996

at Shrewsbury Crown Court

received either on oath or

Regina v Sharman

[Judgment November 27]

their agent for the purpose of applying for and, if possible, obtaining the requisite planning consents for the residential development of Grange Farm. They gave him a substantial financia interest in the grant of those planning consents. A plan was attached showing the boundaries

of the land which was divided into three plots: "Parrymore I". "Parrymore 2" and "Southfields". On September 22, 1993 the Parrymore 1 application was considered by the council's plan-ning sub-committee with Coun-cillor W. D. Hoare in the chair and despite the officers' recommendation that the application should be refused, the sub-committee re-solved to grant consent.

On October 11, 1993 the decision notice granting the Parrymore 1 consent was issued. The land was sold to a developer with the benefit of the planning consent for a substantial sum of money. The net proceeds were divided 75 per cent to the Howerofts and 25 per cent to Mr Coney. Houses had since been built on the land.

On February 9, 1994 the application in respect of Parrymore 2 was considered by the sub-committee with Councillor Houre in the chair mendation the sub-committee resolved to grant consent. The decision notice granting the con-sent was issued on February 21. 1994. The Parrymore 2 land had not been sold by the Howcrofts and remained undeveloped.

In May 1994 Councilior House council and Councillor G. A. Crossland took over as chairman of the planning sub-committee. On September 21 the Southfields

application was considered with Councillor Crossland in the chair and, against the advice of the officers, it was resolved to grant consent. The decision notice was issued on October 14, 1994. The Southfields land too had not been sold and remained undeveloped.

That sequence of events caused concern to other councillors and the responsible officers of the council. There had in 1989 been a disturbing incident involving a non-disclosed association between Mr Coney and Councillor Hoare in connection with a planning application.

Investigations revealed further contacts or associations between Mr Coney and members of the

female, two counts of gross in-

decency with a child, one count of

attempted rape and two counts of rape, for which he was sentenced

to a total of 10 years imprisonment.

Mr Jeremy Gompertz QC, as-

signed by the Registrar of Crim-inal Appeals, for the appellant;

Miss Julia Macur for the Crown.

said that the evidence of a witness

aged 14 had been video tape

recorded while she was still aged

13 Relevant and irrelevant evi-

dence was inextricably mixed and

to give the bulk of her evidence in

chiel orally in the conventional

manner.

LORD JUSTICE MANTELL

council, particularly Councillors House and Crossland, extending over the period with which the present proceedings were converned.

Mr Justice Buxton had grante leave to move for judicial review stating that it was of high public importance that the relevant allegations of impropriety in public life should be investigated.

When the substantive application came before Mr Justice Popplewell the Howcrofts' case was that proceedings by way of appropriate and that in any event the remedies asked for should not be granted.

The Howcrofts did not make any positive case on the merits. Instead they took three points: first, the locus standi of the applicant to make the application; second, the fact that the council had alternative remedy under the 1990 Act to revoke the consents under section 97; and, third, delay.

Mr Justice Popplewell was not prepared to decide the first point in word of the Howerofts but as to the second and the third points, he decided that they were sufficient to justify him in refusing any remedy to the applicant regardless of the strength of his case on the merits about which he expressed no view. The tenor of his judgment was different from that of Mr Justice

Buxton. He clearly considered that the type of allegations of misconduct in public life which he believed were being raised by the applicant should be dealt with in ordinary civil proceedings, not by way of judicial review and that it was wrong in principle that ju-dicial review proceedings should be used as a means of avoiding the need to pay compensation under the 1990 Act to the Howcrofts.

He considered that revocation of the consents under section 97 gave He also found that there had been undue delay. He accordingly re fused relief.

Sufficient interest Section 31 of the Supreme Court Act 1981 provided: "(3) No application for judicial review shall be made unless ... the applicant has a sufficient interest in the matter to which the application relates." What amounted to a "sufficient interest" had been widely interpreted in recognition of the charac-

Evidence of witness aged 14 must be in solemn form The witness was presented to the Judge Mander and a jury) of two

> ined and re-examined. At no stage was she sworn nor did she affirm. It was clear that although the oath could have been nered or solemn affirmation taken even before the video recording was played, at the very latest it ought to have been done at the conclusion of the playing of the video recording and before any questions had been asked by

jury via television link. Some small

part of the video was played to the

jury and the witness was cross-

rosecuting or defence counsel. Their Lordships could not be the convictions so they would be quashed and a retrial ordered Solicitors: CPS, Shrewsbury.

The peculiarity of the present case was that the applicant, Mr Oxby, was in effect acting as a representative of the respondent, he council.

It was on the direction of the council that the applicant was bringing the proceedings. It was the decisions of the council that the applicant sought to have declared

It was possible to justify the making of the application by the applicant as an elector of, and council taxpayer to the council. In the context of local government such a basis for establishing a sufficient interest had been recognised. However, such a justifica-tion would be artificial in the oresent case.

More germane was what was said by Mr Justice Nolan in R v Port Talbot Borough Council, Ex parte Jones (1988) 2 All ER 207, 215). That, like the present case, concerned allegedly unlawful conduct by a local authority.

Mr Justice Nolan had com-

mented: "(the application) was made by the leader of the council, the view being correctly taken that the council itself could hardly be both applicant and respondent. Counsel for [the third respondent] accepts, again correctly in my view, that the leader of the council has the necessary locus standi."
In his Lordship's judgment, that

represented an acceptable ap-proach. It was a convenient and appropriate course to adopt pro-vided, of course, it was not abused. Such a role of the applicant was sufficient to meet the requirements stage of application for leave. At the stage of the decision whether or

not to grant the remedy asked on the substantive application for judicial review, the nature of the role of the applicant was one of the factors which could, and should in cases such as the present, be taken into account in deciding whether to grant the remedy sought.

When exercising the discretion

whether or not to grant the remedy, the court had to take into account that in substance, al-though not in form, it was the council itself that was seeking to have decisions of its own, through one of its own committees, de-

The questions of delay, alternative remedies and prejudice to interested third parties and the ultimate exercise of the discretion had to all be assessed with that factor in mind.

The important feature of the power of revocation was that it might take into account circumstances arising since the original

The power of the local planning authority was granted in terms which were widely expressed. But it should only exercise the power to revoke under section 97 if it considered it expedient to exercise that power which carried with it a right to a person interested in the land to apply for compensation

under section 107.

The council did not consider it expedient to revoke those consents because they were vitiated by either actual or apparent bias and the payment of compensation.

Indeed, it submitted that it would be wrong and a dereliction to have those consents set aside but to choose to revoke them and pay compensation. In his Lordship's Eversheds, Derby.

and proper attitude for the council Delay, the legal framework

it was necessary to consider what Lord Justice Simon Brown had said in R v Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, Ex parte A (1997) 3 WLR 776) about the relevance of delay at the time of the determination of the substantive application for judicial review and the exercise of the court's discretion

The critical factor in the present case arose under Lord Justice Simon Brown's third head; hardship, prejudice and detriment to the interested third parties, the Howerofts.

At present they had valuable development rights. If the consents were quashed they lost those rights subject to the possibility of apply-ing afresh for new planning onsents. On the evidence, it had to be

assumed that such applications would not have any realistic chance of success and his Lordship would proceed on that basis. Prejudice

The Howerofts were both elderly. They had been negotiating to sell the Parrymore. 2 and Southfields lands to a property developer for about £2 million. The proposed contract was conditional on existing planning permissions remaining in place and detailed planning permission being

They submitted that they should be entitled to enjoy the benefits, as yet unrealised, of realising the development value of the land and they would lose that if the planning consents were invalidated.

That submission added nothing

to the basic framework of the case. It was not just that the Howcrofts should not have received it in the The merits

His Lordship would confine himself to the allegations of bias or apparent bias. It was not necessary to enter on any question of fraud. If the case had depended on the substantiation of allegations of fraud against individuals, it would

have been appropriate that the council be required to pursue their claim by a writ action. Such issues were not normally suitable for But as to bias or apparent bias, that was properly the subject

matter of proceedings for judicial review. It affected the propriety of the decision of the decision-maker.

In his Lordship's judgment, the applicant had presented a strong case in support of his application

that the two relevant planning consents were rendered invalid by bias or apparent bias and had made out what was necessary for him to establish on an application for judicial review of the decisions. Exercise of discretion In his Lordship's judgment,

justice required that, as between the council and those whom the council represented on the one hand and the Howcrofts on the other, those consents should be declared void and that it would be unjust if the courts were to refuse to do so or were to require the council to pay compensation to the Howcrofts as a condition of achiev-

ing that result. Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Otton agreed. Solicitors: Sharpe Pritchard;

Use of confidential business package

Murray v Yorkshire Fund Managers Ltd and Another Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Schiemann and Sir John

Hudgment December 11 In the absence of any contractual relationship, a plaintiff who coowned a package of confidential information put together to facili-tate a business project was power-less to prevent the information from being used after a decision taken by his co-owners to exclude him from participating in the project. The use of the information

to the plaintiff's detriment could not be relied on by him to found an action for breach of confidence. The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments allowing an appeal by the second defendant, Michael Edward Hartley, from Judge Kershaw, QC, who, sitting as a judge of the High Court in the Manchester Mercantile List on September 20, 1995, had given dgment for the plaintiff, Drummond Murray, against Mr Hartley for a sum to be assessed. The judge had dismissed the plaintiff's claim against the first defendants, Yorkshire Fund Man-

agers Ltd. Mr David Waksman for Mr Hartley; Mr T. E. Shannon for Mr Murray; Mr Steven Coles for Yorkshire Fund Managers Ltd.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said that in 1991 a business plan and information regarding the pur-chase of a company, Servicescope Electronics Ltd, put together by a team of persons that included Mr Murray, was highly confidential

Mr Murray and the other five members of the team each had thus were co-owners of it. But there was no contractual, fiduciary or other special relationship between

The information was subsequently communicated by the team to the defendants. Mr Hartley, an investment manager,

and his employer, Yorkshire Fund Managers Ltd.

Thereafter Mr Hartley, with the consent of the members of the team other than Mr Murray, had started using the information for his own benefit and for a purpose detrimental to Mr Murray.

The question was whether Mr Murray, not having agreed to the proposal and thus not having consented to Mr Hardey's use of the information, was entitled to relief against Mr Hartley.

Three elements were require apart from contract, for an action for investigation confidence to succeed: first, the information had to have the necessary quality of con-fidence; second, the information had to have been imparted in circumstances importing an obligation of confidence; and third, an unauthorised use of that information to the deriment of the party communicating it.

There could be no doubt that the first two elements were present. Everything depended on whether there had been an unauthorised use of the information. In Mathers v Green ((1865) 1 Ch

App 29), a decision approved by the House of Lords in Steers v Rogers [[1893] AC 232], it was held that one joint patentee of a patent was unable to control its use by the

In Heyl-Dia v Edmunds ((1891) 81 LT 579) a similar principle was applied to a secret process, it being held that one co-owner could not. in the absence of contract, restrain the other from using it for his own On the basis of those authorities

Mr Waksman submitted that each member of the team, being himself entitled, as against the others, to use the confidential information for his own benefit, was equally entitled to consent to Mr Hardey using it for his benefit in the way that he had.

While Mr Wakman's submissions represented a correct application of the reasoning in Heyl-Dia, a decision in the instant

alone. At the turn of the century the law relating to breach of confidence was not as well developed as it had since become.

....

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Sept. 100 100

Section Section 1995

Electric Specification

It was necessary to consider the particular relationship between the parties with care. The members of the team had got together to acquire the assets of Servicescope through the medium of a new

company.

Although there might have been agreement as to the sums to be invested, with much remaining to he agreed there could never have been a binding agreement that ail the members would aminue to participate and any of them could

have withdrawn.

Equally the members other than Mr Murray had been at liberty and decide among themselves that they would go ahead without him, either on their own or with others. That is what they did and, however incensed Mr Murray might have been at their conduct and that of Mr Hartley, he had been power.

less to prevent it.
It was in that context that the confidential information had to be considered. It came into being for the purpose of facilitating the

project.
Initially it belonged to all the members of the team. But if one of their number could be excluded from the project, he could not, after his exclusion, prevent the others from using the information as they

To put it another way, the information, being an adjunct of a relationship whose continuation Mr Murray was incapable of protonging ceased to be his prop-erry once the relationship was

On that ground the question of law should be decided in favour of Mr Hartley. Lord Justice Schiemann gave :

concurring judgment and Sir John Vinelott agreed. Solicitors: Eversheds. Leeds:

Mainman Heywood, Manchester: Davies Arnold & Cooper.

Video disclosure not unlawful

ough Council, Ex parte Peck A local authority did not act unlawfully in giving to the media copies of a closed circuit television ording made in a public place. Mr Justice Harrison so held in

the Queen's Bench Division on November 25 when dismissing an application for judicial review by offrey Dennis Peck of disclosure of video recordings made by Brentwood Borough Council.

The applicant had tried to com-mit suicide by cutting his wrists with a knife. Unknown to him his actions were video recorded. The police released him without charge. Subsequently the council distributed copies of the incident to the media. The footage showed the applicant walking along High

Street, Brentwood with a knife but did not show him cutting his wrists. He was recognised by friends and neighbours when it was shown on television and

Justice and Public Order Act 1994 and section ill of the Local Government Act 1972 empowered the council to provide and operate the prevention of crime. It was also empowered to distribute video recordings thus made to the media because that thereby facilizated the

crime.
While his Lordship had sympathy with the applicant, the council had not acted irrationally as it had not known of his complaint until the footage hac been featured on television and ir

Auditors' duty

Coulthard and Others v Neville Russell (a Firm)

It was arguable that where a firm appointed as a company's accounants and acting as its auditors was in a position to advise its directors that making loan payments to a shell company which had acquired the company's issued share capital to enable it to meet its financial commitments incurred by the purchase of the shares, rather than making dividend payments, would involve infringement of section 151 depicted in a local paper.

MR JUSTICE HARRISON said that firm owed a duty of care at common law to give such advice to

the directors of the company. The Court of Appeal (Lorc Justice Kennedy. Lord Justica Judge and Lord Justice Chadwick so stated on November 27 when dismissing an appeal by Neville Russell, a firm of accountants. against the refusal of Judge Mart Johnson, sitting as a judge of the High Court in the Queen's Bench. Division, to strike out the statement of claim and dismiss the action brought against the firm by David Coulthard, Hugh Shuttle of a company carrying on busines. as a members' agent for names at

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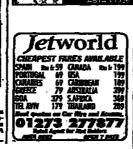
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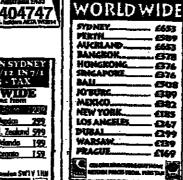


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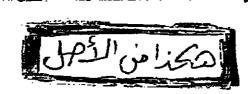


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in January) and the list of players. Select your team

You must pick 1 goalkeeper, 2 full backs, 2 central defenders, 4 midfielders, 2 strikers and a manager.

You must not pick more than two individuals (two

players or one player and a manager) from the

Your team must be made up of 12 individuals at

any one time but you may transfer your players in

and out of your team as you wish, according to your

You may enter as many teams as you wish.

HOW TO ENTER BY POST

Once you have selected your team, simply complete

the entry form and send it with a cheque or postal

order for £2 payable to Times Newspapers to the

outside the UK and Republic of Ireland are £10

address on the application form. Entries from

You have £35 million to spend on a team of 11

as follows:

players and a manager.

The fun of the cup and £10,000

Do you have the skill to choose a

team and win the FA Cup league?

£10,000 prize is up to their present allocation. for grabs for the From now on, all new teams From now on, all new teams will receive 20 transfers for the winner of the branda league within the ITF. duration of the season. Postal entries must be received by Entrants to ITF will auto-Tuesday December 30 and matically score points in the telephone entries by 10am on FA Cup league when the Saturday January 3 in order to players in their team compete score points from the begin-ning of the FA Cup league in the FA/Tennents Cup rounds. From January 3, English Premiership players will begin the knockout and Janucompetition. Entrants must be

Tennents Cup round involving

Scottish premier division

Scottish premier divisions

begin. Ali teams will be allocated transfers to use at their

own discretion but remember,

the sooner you enter the more

transfers your team will be

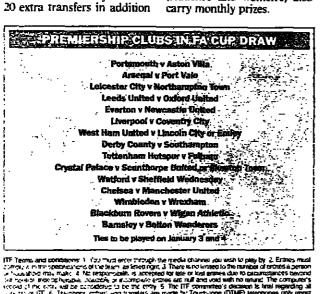
Any team in the ITF before

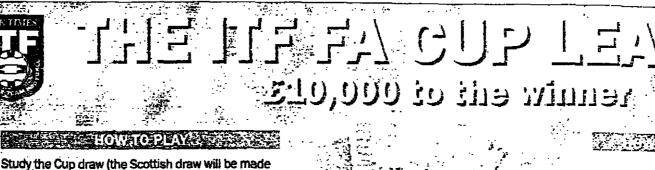
12 noon last Saturday received

This is your chance to

18 years or over. By competing in the FA Cup ary 24 sees the start of the league, your players will automatically score points for matches played in the English and Scottish premier divisions during the 1997-98 football choose a team specifically for the FA Cup league. All players start scoring when the cup rounds involving English and season as well and, if approprate, in the mini leagues - students' or wom-

By scoring points in the ITF, your team could win the monthly prizes of £1,000, a signed Mitre football, a Mitre sports bag and a pair of tickets to a premier league match by scoring the most points in any one month. The mini league (student's and women's) also carry monthly prizes.





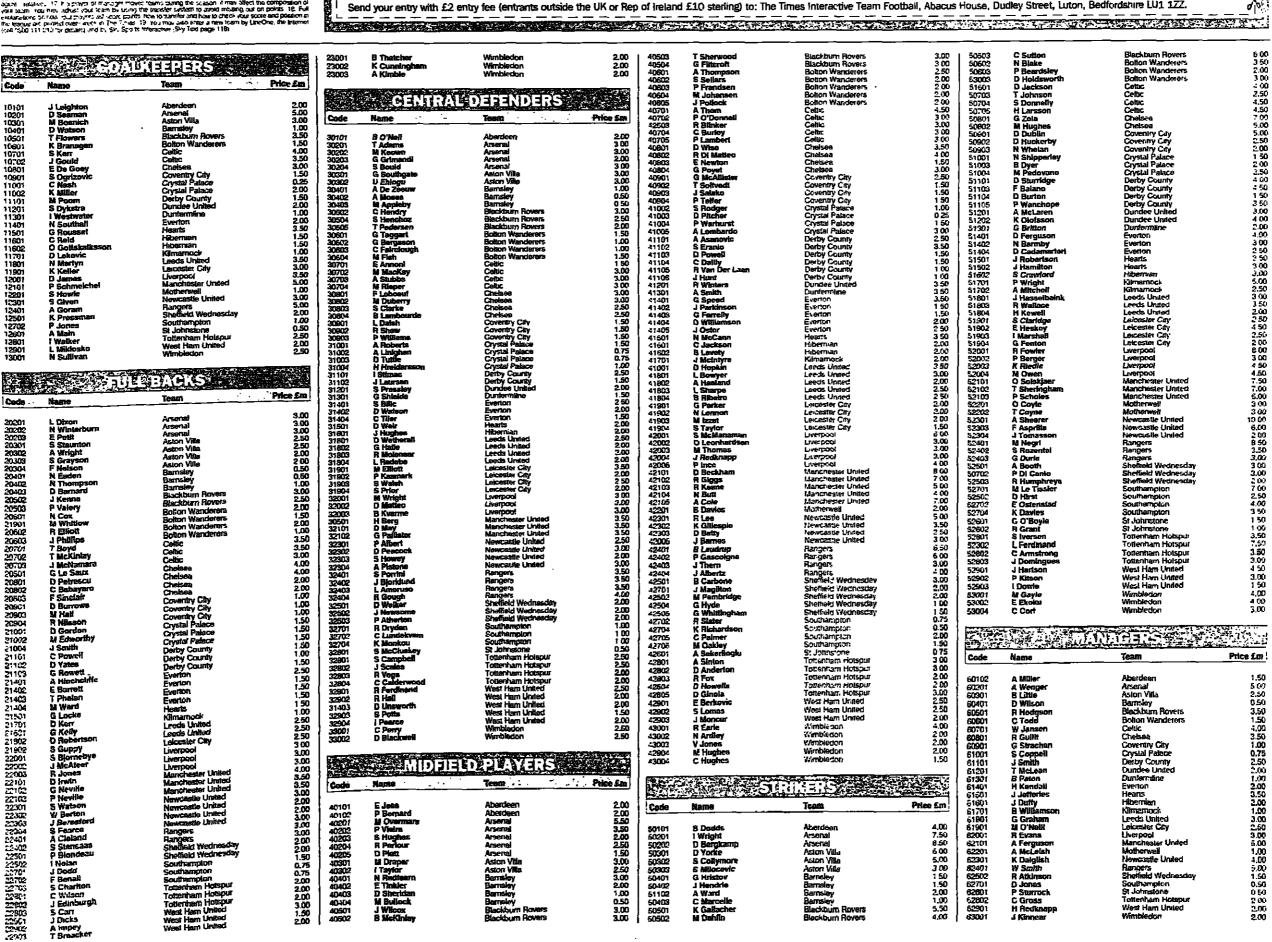


A STONE STATE OF THE STATE OF T 0891 405 011 (Republic of Ireland +44 990 100 308)

Once you have chosen your team, call the entry hotline, using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) and follow the step-by-step instructions. You must tap in (not speak) the full set of selections (using the five-digit player codes) for each of your 11 chosen players and your manager. You will be asked whether you wish to enter one of the mini leagues (women's or students') if appropriate. If so, do so as directed on the telephone. You must speak the name of your team (no more than 16 characters), your name, address with postcode and your daytime telephone number. Finally, you will be given a ten-digit personal identification number (PIN) at the end of the call. You must keep a note of this number as you will need your PIN for making transfers and checking your team score. (A new team will score points on future games in the ITF and mini league.) Calls last about eight minutes and cost 50p per minute (calls made from a pay phone cost approximately double).

sterling and may only be made by post.

	Title sild no extra series in the series of	
	ENTEROX WORLS	:000:2:3:11
	THIS SECTION TO BE COM	PLETED BY ALL ENTRANTS
TEAM NAME	(Up to 16 characters)	First Name
Goalkeeper		Sumame
Full back		
Central defender		Address
Central defender		
Midfielder		Postcode
Midfielder		
Midfielder		Cheque / PO No.
Midfielder		This year (IF incorporates separate mini leagues. Please tick the correct league(s) for your entry.
Striker		League League
Striker (Entrants must be 18 or over to play in the ITF league, the Women's league
Manager		and the Students' league.
Which age group a	are you? 18-24 25-34 35-44 45-64 55-64 65+	How often do you read The Sunday Times? Less than once a month 1-2 times a month 3-4 times a month
How often do you read The Times?		
Send your entry w		is Interactive Team Football, Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton, Bedfordshire LU1 177.



SAILING

Cayard in front by a nose as fleet nears turn

BY EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

IT IS not often that a professional yacht racing skipper refers to his boat as a horse, but then Paul Cayard, at the wheel of EF Language, has never failed to impress with his imaginative and lucid interpretation of situations during his first Whitbread Round The World Race.

The Californian was in good spirits yesterday as EF Language again popped out at the head of the nine-boat fleet on the difficult third leg from Fremantle to Sydney, one characterised by windward sailing and weather maps dominated by high pressure.

"We are into miles-at-thebarn mode," Cayard, who was enjoying a 12-mile lead over Gunnar Krantz, in Swedish Match, in second place, said. This horse can smell the barn and it's hoofin' as fast as it

EF Language was making ten knots in 14 knots of breeze from the south and heading straight for Cape Otway at the western entrance to the Bass Strait, 600 miles ahead.

Cayard and Krantz have benefited from steering a middie-of-the-fleet course during the past two days. The field is still spread out over a northsouth axis of 175 miles.

Lawrie Smith, on Silk Cut. is furthest north, with Chessie



Cayard: in good spirits

Racing. Toshiba, Merit Cup and EF Education below him. To the south of Cayard, Innovation Kvaerner and Brunel-Sunergy, which have taken what most of the other skippers regard as a flyer. Kvaerner improved her position from last to sixth yesterday, but may have stalled

Cayard predicts the decisive phase may be when the fleet turns north after passing through the Strait. Really, things are very close and considering the spread of the fleet . . the weather will make all the difference. If nothing major happens, we will all arrive at Bass Strait in a tight pack and save the excitement for the beat up the east coast of Oz," he said.

Grant Dalton is continuing to feel the heat with Merit Cup, lying further north, but still down the pack in seventh position. "We are doing a lot of worrying, i can assure you," Dalton said. There is a big split in the fleet - north and south - and two very separate feelings on how best to get there [the Strait]. Only one thing is sure — some boats will be very wrong, but it may take another 36 hours before it properly unfolds.

"We have decided to travel over the top of the high pressure that is pushing into the Bight, on the basis that the south should eventually run out of wind and the only wind in town will be in the north?"

The question mark at the end of that sentence in Dalton's e-mail communication was his own, perhaps an indication of just how anxious the Aucklander and Mike Quilter, the navigator, must be feeling, knowing that their decisions could determine whether Merit Cup will still be in the running for overall honours at the end of this leg.

Latest positions, page 45

Women thrive in league of their own



ugby league, perhaps the most masculine of sports, is undergoing another facelift. No sooner has the Super League substituted winter mud for summer razzmatazz than Jackie Sheldon is spreading the news that

women can play too. The British Amateur Rugby League Association (Barla) agrees and has appointed Sheldon, 35, as the first women's national development officer. This new post, funded by the Sports Council, will run for 12 months. "The job has a wide remit," Sheldon said. "I want to get a proper structure in place for women to play. coach and run their own

That women play at all may come as a surprise to anyone living south of the Pennines. According to Sheldon, there are about 500 women playing rugby league, all in the north of England at present. The Women's Rugby League Association was formed in 1986 and there are two divisions in its national league. A Great Britain squad was first assembled in 1995, Sheldon herself played up until this year and is now the most qualified coach in the wom-

She hopes that the interest generated by teams such as the London Broncos will help to shift the appeal of the game southwards. There was a women's club in Fulham during the late Eighties. "They were often short of players and used to travel hundreds of miles in their van every week to play," Sheldon said. "I remember hearing that they picked up a hitch-hiker once. on condition that she played

While working as a coordinator for the Action Sport



Sheldon is hoping to find new converts to the cause of rugby league among women in the south of England

project in Featherstone in 1988, Sheldon had no shortage of volunteers wanting to try the sport. "I can remember that first session. It was bitterly cold, the first Friday night after Christmas. We weren't allowed on the pitch, in case we churned it up too much, so we just ran around on the

side. But we had 19 women turn up and from that we formed two teams, Redhill and Wakefield Panthers." Featherstone, Sheldon's home town, is in the heartland of rugby league. Her two brothers are similarly passionate about the game and she remembers the girls playing at her school. "I can recall when Featherstone got to Wembley and what it felt like

for the town," she said. "It's

very much a traditional

stronghold and, when the

team went round in their bus

Black: Viswanathan Anand

Fide world championship

Groningen, December 1997

Bogo-Indian Defence

Bb4+

0-0 Bxd2+

Bb7

d6 Nbd7

after being at Wembley, everyone came out to cheer." She regrets that, in the new-

look men's game, some of the smaller dubs, such as Featherstone Rovers, are get-ting weaker while the big ones, such as Bradford Bulls, are getting stronger. "You can't make the same assumptions any more," she said. "The clubs need to put something back into the local community and the ones that are doing that are reaping the benefit

Wakefield Panthers are the dominant force in the women's game. Unbeaten in seven years, they have a growing reputation and support. Sheldon, who bears a striking resemblance to the singer, Debbie Harry, of Blondie. does not look big enough or mean enough to have played

is certain, though, that women have more than enough skill and power to play an enter-

taining game.
The Australians seem to agree. In August 1996, after Britain players had raised the necessary £70,000, Sheldon and her team-mates went on a tour that included three internationals and took in Sydney. Canberra and Brisbane.

t was an amazing achievement just to get there," she said. "To win the series 2-1 was absolutely fantastic. We had loads of publicity, even the taxi drivers recognised us. The tour was very tough and although we were all ready to come home, when we landed in England we felt very flat. There was just no interest."

Sheldon now believes that was a defining moment for

the women's game. "From that trip, we realised we had potential and that we had to make our own future. We decided we wanted to improve our playing standard and our structure. We have some very talented, valuable people in our sport and I want

em to stay involved." Baria has now signalled its support and Sheldon believes it is time to make the sport more visible. "What I'd really like is for the women to play at Wembley. A few years ago, we played before the Premiership final in front of thousands. The GB women were invited to Wembley for the Challenge Cup final this year, but we were only allowed to dance round the pitch waving flags. It was nice to be at Wembley, but we should have been playing. I hope that day is not

SQUASH

Marshall ready for life at the top

BY COLIN MCQUILLAN

PETER MARSHALL'S defeat of Simon Parke in the NSL Cup first-round game at Edgbaston Priory late on Monday evening is certain to return the double-hander to the position of England No!.
It would be the first time that Marshall. 26, has led the national rankings since he was forced out of the game with chronic fatigue syndrome in April, 1995.

The former world No 2 defeated Parke, 25, the first-string for ICL LionHerts, the Super League champions, 10-8, 9-4, 10-8 in an hour-long encounter. For a time, the victory seemed to offer Armourcolor Priory, Mar-shall's National Squash League side, a chance of reaching the quarter-finals of the cup — which is played annually between the two leading leagues in Great Britain — but lower-order vic-tories by Mark Chaloner, who beat Clive Leach 8-10, 9-7, 9-5, 9-7, and Julian Wellings, who defeated Simon Taylor 4-9. 5-9, 9-7, 9-5, 9-7, ensured that LionHerts went through.

Tamworth Duffield, also of the National League, beat Rowlands Manchester, of the Super League, the team that swept all before them in the cup last season, 2-1 on their village courts in Derbyshire. Nick Taylor won at first string for the cup-holders, but Paul Hargrave and John Russell carried the lower order for

Halifax Insurance, who are expected to introduce Jansher Khan, of Pakistan, into Super League action from January. defeated Hallamshire 2-1. while Surbiton carried the day for the Super League 3-0 against Bishop's Stortford and Ellis Lingfield defeated

Hartridge Chichester 2-1. In Wales, Dunraven Mae steg beat Cardiff Institute 3-0. In a comprehensive display of developing Welsh strength in squash, Alex Gough, defeated Matthew Benjamin 9-3, 9-7, 7-9, 9-4, David Evans, the Welsh champion, overcame Greg Tippings 9-6, 9-6, 9-4 and Adrian Davies, the former Wales captain, defeated Paul Allen, 9-7, 10-8, 2-9, 9-4.



By Robert Sheehan, bridge correspondent

The suit combination in which there is most scope for delicate play is where the declarer has nine cards missing just the queen. Here is another variation on the theme.

Dealer East N-S game and 60 Rubber bridge

	+864 ▼AKJ3 +AQ +K974	
99 ♥Q84 •K109653 •QJ5	W E	÷A753 ♥9 +J87 ÷A1086
	+ K Q J 10 2	
	¥107652	
	42	

Contract: Four Spades doubled, by South. Lead: Ten of diamonds

After two passes. West opened Three Diamonds, North doubled and East bid Four Diamonds. I was South, and bid Four Spades. That went back to East, who doubled. I had just lost successively a 22-point and a 32-point rubber in the TGR £100 game, and I threw away another £1,000 on this hand. The queen of diamonds held the first trick and I played a spade to the king. Now how should I continue?

East was Robert Richman. who played for Australia in recent Bermuda Bowl. Obviously, if I continued with another high spade, he would duck; was there any better play than continuing trumps? In practice, I did play a second high trump, ducked again by East. He took the third round and returned a diamond. Now I was stuck in dummy, and to avoid losing control had to play ace and king of hearts; when East ruffed the second round, I was

on this hand. After one round

of trumps. I should have played a heart to the king. Now I play a second spade. East's best play is to duck (else I have communication to draw trumps before tackling the hearts), and now I play a second heart, finessing the jack when West follows small. The beauty of this play is

There is a clear safety play

wins with the queen, hearts

are set up.
The difference from my line of play is that I lose only one heart trick (obviously West cannot have the ace of clubs after East's double, so there is no danger of losing two heart ruffs). Playing as I did at the table. I managed to lose both a ruff and a heart trick. Annoying — I wrote about this type of play a few months ago. ☐ The Macallan International Bridge Pairs Championship 1998 will be played at The White House Hotel, Albany Street, London NW1 from Wednesday January 21 to Friday January 23. Tickets and information are available from the Macallan Box Office, 31 Queens Road. Mortlake, London SW14

WORD-WATCHING By Philip Howard

HYGRIC

a. A mythical beast b. To do with water

c. A lost language

a. Revolutionary money

b. The Jersey Parliament

c. "Let Justice be Done!"

MANDAT

NANDI a. A bull b. Unleavened bread c. An effeminate man

> HOICK a. A country bumpkin b. An Amerindian language c. A cricket shot

Answers on page 45

KEENE on CHESS White: Alexander Khalifman

4 Nbd2

Bc3

5 a3

BY RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Favourite's progress

Viswanathan Anand, the Indian grandmaster, is the highest rated player in the Fide championship. His rating of 2,765 exceeds even that of Anatoly Karpov (2,745) who has already qualified for the final. So far. during his campaign to dethrone Karpov. Anand has eliminated both Predrag Nikolic and Alexander Khalifman.

hite: Vicu	anathan Anand	13	cxd5	හැල්ව්
	rag Nikolic	14	රුදුර	bxc5
	-	15	b4	Ne4
de world o	championship	16	Rc1	Nxg3
roningen.	December 1997	17	hxg3	c4
Fren	ch Defence	18	BI5	N 16
64	e6	19	Qd4	Qb6
d4	d5	20	Rfd1	Bc8
Nc3	8b4	21	Bb1	Bg4
e5	ස්	22	e4	Rie8
a3	Bxc3+	23	Oxb6	නරා6
pxc3	Ω a5	24	exd5	b5
Bd2	Qa4	25	Fc3	Rad8
Cig4	g6	26	Re3	Rxe3
Qd1	Cxd4	27	txe3	Ra8
Ab1	d3	28	e4	Rxa3
Bxd3	Chra3	29	e5	Nd7
Nf3 h4	Oc5	30	e6	txe6
0-0	h6 Nd7	31	dxe6	Bxe6
Re1	₩O/ æ6	32	Nd4	Bg4
c4	dxc4	33	No.DS	Ab3
Be4	ස	34	Rc1	Rxb4
Be3	Oc4	35	Ba2	Nb6
Bd4	Nc5	36	Nc3	Be6
Re3	Nxe4	37	Rb1	Fxb1+
Rxe4	Bd7	38	B/b1	Nd5
Re3	Ne7	39	Nxd5	Bxd5
Fbsc3	Qd5	40	N2	Kf7
Rc6	Cle4	41	Ke3	Bxg2
Rc7	b5	42	Kd4	B 11
Bc\$	Nd5	43	Be4	1 6
Rod7 Ro4	Kxd7 Qxb4	44	Bf3	Kf5
Bxb4	Rhc8	45	Bd1	Kg5
Bd6	Rc4	46	Bt3	h5
Nd2	Rd4	Wh	te resigns	

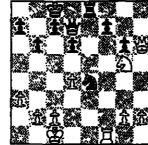
☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

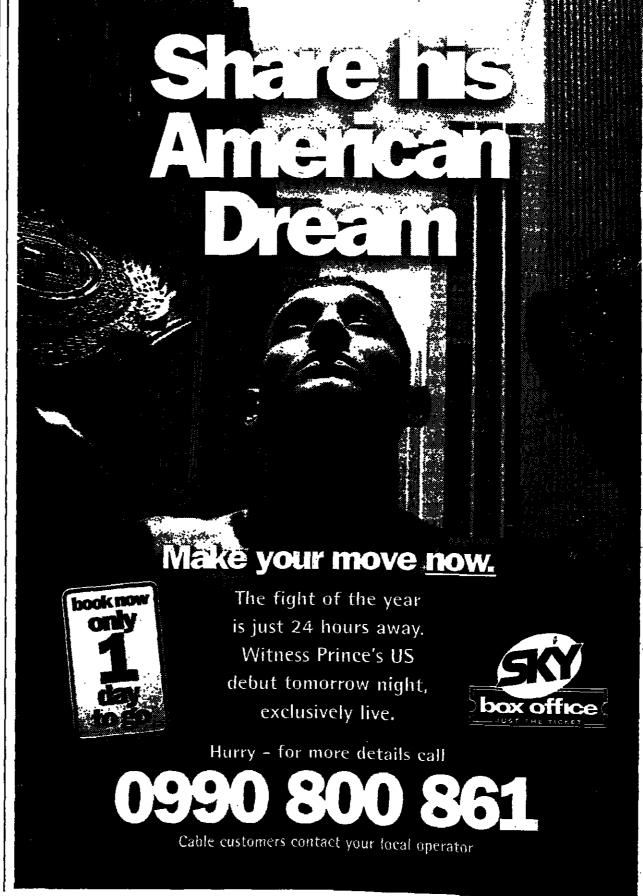
WINNING MOVE

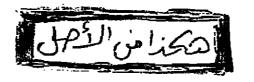
By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from Mortensen - Krasenkov, Hastings, 1992. Material is level, but Black has the better chances as his pieces are more centralised. He now found a way to exploit the disjointed nature of the white forces. What did he play?

Solution on page 45







Prospects

look good

for Ascot

ASCOT, due to stage the Smurfit Long Walk Hurdle and the Betterware Cup on Saturday, is confident of racing going ahead.
Nick Cheyne, the clerk of

the course, said yesterday: We are getting some steady snow, but it is expected to turn to drizzle followed by heavier rain. Whatever happens today.

the temperatures are set to

rise from tomorrow so we

Kempton expects give in

the ground for the Pertemps Christmas Festi-

val. Peter McNeile, the

clerk of the course, said:

"The going is good to soft at present and I would

expect good or good to soft

Heavy overnight snow caused the cancellation of

yesterday's meeting at

ground on Boxing Day."

should be in the clear."

Board needs more realistic approach for financial plan

AS 1998 beckons, those running the British Horseracing Board (BHB) should consider making an early New Year's resolution -- to confront reali-

ty. Otherwise they are in danger of making a laughing stock of themselves and the sport in their care. The Times yesterday repro-

duced the salient points of a financial plan for British racing under consideration by the BHB. Inside the next month. Lord Wakeham and his colleagues are due to complete and go public with what amounts to a blueprint for the sport in the 21st Century. Producing a well-reasoned document with compelling arguments and financially sound recommendations will be critical for the sport's

The plan's analysis of the industry's financial problems and the effect on British racing is concise and admirably explained: albeit without saying anything dramatically new. Even the chapter on the sport's financial requirements is well meaning, if a shade optimistic. For example, would an extra £12 million spent on marketing racing really increase employment by 2,280, boost income by £25 million and tax revenues by £5.8 million as well as attracting 550 extra

owners and horses? comes when the plan moves on to how the extra £105 million deemed necessary to fulfil racing's financial needs should be raised. Peter Savill and his team argue that Government should cut bet-

ting duty by 1.75 per cent with the resulting £117 million being switched to the levy. Racing should get £80 mil-lion, with greyhound racing receiving £17 million. This would leave the betting industry with a surplus of about £20 million." Does the BHB honestly believe the Government is just going to give £20 million to the big bookmakers. all of whom have recently achieved record profits, rather than keep the money for the

RICHARD EVANS

NHS or schools? If so, it is

It gets worse. Detailing the

living in cloud cuckoo land.

Nap: Bracey Run (2.40 Towcester)

On his hurdling debut at Sandown 13 days ago, Bracey Run made eye-catching head-way to finish third behind untry Beau in one of hottes novice races of the season. He has Ballet High to beat Next best: Fen Terrier

impact of using the extra cash to double prize-money and boost marketing, the plan relies on a study carried out by KPMG management consultants. That study appears to have been based on interviews with a group of just 54 owners - including a larger propor-However, the real problem tion of big owners - with the results fed into a financial

model. The outcome is the claim that racing's income would be boosted by £188 million (excluding any revenue from increased betting) and 9,300

jobs would be created - 1,720 in training yards, 415 in livery yards, 3,125 in studs and bloodstock auctioneers, 900 at racecourses and 2,100 with vets, farriers, feed and forage merchants and caterers. There would also be 2,495 new owners and 3,417 new horses. Betting turnover would be increased by £500 million and swell bookmakers' profits by a further £65 million.

If that does not dely belief, the BHB plan claims it will not cost the Government a penny or, in its language, increased tax revenue and savings resulting from less unemployment will make it likely "that a betting duty cut of 1.75 per cent by Government would be at least revenue neutral".

I wish it were true. But I don't think it is and neither will the Treasury. Indeed, the sense of disbelief produced within Whitehall by racing's claims and demands grows by the day.

The sense of unease is shared, privately, by some BHB members, notably David Oldrey. He has told colleagues that to demand a transfer of 1.75 per cent betting duty to levy is "impolite" and potentially damaging to racing's cause. He is right. Indeed, there is a fear the Government will be tempted to increase rather than decrease betting duty in the next

Budget.
Racing's funding is unsatisfactory — but the financial plan is, at best, politically naive and, at worst, threatens any chance of achieving im-



McCoy clears the last on Deano's Beeno at Bangor yesterday on his way to the fastest 150 winners in a season

McCoy reaches 150 in record time

at Bangor yesterday, before completing a double on Jymiam Johnny in the Bodfari Stud Handicap

Never in any danger of defeat, the long odds-on Deano's Beeno, trained by Martin Pipe, made every yard of the running and cruised home four lengths clear of

Buckhouse Boy.
Pipe has been responsible for 93 of McCoy's 150 winners and the jockey, after being presented with a bottle of champagne in the winner's enclosure to mark his feat, said: "Having the Pipe horses to ride is a big help. They make my job a lot easier. I would like to thank Mr Pipe

TONY McCOY raced to the fastest 150 winners in a jumping season on Deano's Beeno at Bangor yesterday, before and also my agent, David Roberts, for doing such a great job on my behalf."

The Irish rider, with an unassailable lead in the jock-eys championship, said: "I have had a bit of flu recently and haven't felt that great, but it hasn't been bad enough for

me to take any time off." Asked whether he would now be chasing Peter Scudamore's 1988 record total of 221 winners in a season. McCoy said: "There is a long way to go. If I am still in one piece after Cheltenham then we shall see."

☐ Tullymurry Toff, the highly promising povice chaser trained by Malcoim Jefferson, has cracked a bone in his knee and is out for the season. He is expected to make a full

12.30 Diddy Rymer. 1.00 River Unshlon. 1.30 Fen Tenfer. 2.00 Whitegates Wille. 2.30 First Light. 3.00 Prince Of Saints. 3,30 Valhalla.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES)

12.30 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,276: 3m 1f 110yd) (11 runners)

3-1 Cash Box. 7-2 Be Brave. 4-1 Diddy Rysses, 5-1 Highland Perk, 10-1 others.

1.00 CATTERICK RACE CLUB 1998 JOHN UP NOW HANDICAP CHASE (£3,454: 3m ff 110yd) (7) 115-2 LiRopics LOTTO 19 (F.S.5) 6 Richards 8-11-12 B Harding (3) 121 25-23 WLDING 12 (CD.F.C.5) Mr.J. Storry 8-11-3 ... Mr.C. Storry 3 3929 775 BUD CLIB 618 F.C.9 W. Climacho 9-11-3 ... P. Nieson 412-3 GAELO BULTO 9 (10) Mr.S. Storry 8-11-3 ... P. Rotest 121 5 3-25 REVER UNSHON 19 (BF.F.S) J Housted Johnson 7-11-1 P. Centerry 126

1.30 AMPLÉFORTH HANDICAP HURDLE

15-41 FBN TBRRER 33 (CD.F.G.S) F Mortagh 5-12-0 B Harding (S)
2.5-4 DMMCND BEACH 8 (D.S) 6 M Moore 4-11-2 ... M Beatley
102
3.5153 SYM, MAI SABRE 15 (D.F.G.) 0 State 8-11-2 ... R McSardi (S)
4.01-6 LUCKY BEA 25 (CD.S) M W Eastroy 4-10-11 ... P Carbory
5.2-22 SCAPABEN 10 (CD.S.S) F Storey 9-10-10 8 Storey
100
7.2502 HOBBS CHOICE 37 (Y.D.F) 6 M Moore 4-10-6 ... J Callagham
111

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRAINCES: J. Easterby, 8 minors from 20 numers, 40.0%; A Streeter, 7 from 22, 31.8%; K Mortgan, 14 from 50, 28.0%; J Fitzgerajd, 12 from 54, 22.2%; J J Quino, 6 from 34, 17.6%.

2.30 ABRAHAM TRANSPORT NATIONAL HURT NOVICES HURDLE (£2,458: 2m 3f) (16)

3.00 HAPPY CHRISTMAS HANDICAP CHASE

24,300. 2019 (1)

13494 TAPATCH 15 (B.D.F.S) M W Eastarby 9-11-10 P Midplay (2)

2 /14/ 8000 FGR A LOMN 851 (BF.D.F.S) R Les 10-11-5 . L Wyer

3 U-80 CHORUS LINE 15 (D.F.S) P Beastront 8-11-8 . 8 Gintain (5)

4 5-71 PRINCE OF SAMITS 24 (CD.S) M Hamspeare 6-17-08 Gintain (5)

55P43 PRINCE OF SAMITS 24 (CD.S) M Hamspeare 6-17-08 Gintain (5)

5454-MDSS PAREART 28 (6) F Waln 7-10-4 ... R Storby

7 25-4 KLDRAMANY CASTLE 7 (D.F.) J Fitzperald 5-10-2 P Carbony

3.30 GARRISON INTERMEDIATE NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,214: 2m) (9) 1 61 OVER THE BECK 24 (CILG) J. Jakerson 4-11-11 E Calleg 2 31- VALHALLA 229 (D.G) M Todhungar 4-11-11 C McCommed | SERVICE | State | St

BUNKERED FIRST TIME: Catterick: 12.30 Ron On The Run Southwelt: 11.50 Cambridge Blue, 1.50 Bonyalus Mill. 3.20 Alzan, Towcester: 12.40 Lambson, 1.40 Ever Smile.

11-6 Ovel 304 Back, 7-4 Valuatio, 10-1 Wantey Prints, Branch End. 12-1 other

TOWCESTER

12.40 My Man In Dundalk 1.10 Dantes Cavalier

2.10 BOOTS MADDEN (nap) 2.40 Ballet High 3.10 Pete The Parson 3.40 Russell Road

Timekeeper's top rating: 1.10 BANK AVENUE.

TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

12.40 NORTHANTS 96 TURKEY SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE Long handicas: Lambson 9-12, Celtic Lilley 9-10. Lofty Deed 9-6. Annabel's Bathy 9-5.

SETTING: 5-2 Lancer. 9-2 (Tilban, 11-2 My Max ts Dendals, Marg-Boo, 13-2 English Invader. 7-1 Weish Spraces, 8-1 The Executor, 14-1 others. 1996: AMBIDEXTROUS 4-10-12 L Cummins (6-1) E Alston 15 can

FORM FOCUS

11(4)-0 of 9 to Longcroft in selling handicap hordis at Newton Abbot (2m 5i, good to firm), My Man in Dondaik 35i 7m of 8 to Cheeky Charlie in handicap hurdle at Follestone (2m 5i to 5i). Lancer 1/1 2nd of 7 to Galloping Guns in handicap hurdle at Ludlow (2m, good) Margi Boo 25i 5in of 1/4 to Gulteridge in amateur novice handicap hurdle at Herebrod (2m, good) Margi Boo mader if 3nd of 11 to Whather Wise in salting burdle at Political (2m, good). Weish Spinner 12i 4th of 8 to Supermick in selling hurdle at Herebrod (2m 11, good). MINISTER'S MADAM loves soft ground and could be a bit of value at a bridgy race

1.10 DOWER GREEN HOLLY NOVICES CHASE (\$4,317: 2m 6f) (15 namers) | POWER GREEN HOLLY NOVICES CHASE (24,317: 2m 5f) (15 numers) | PS5841- BALLYDOUGAN 220 (V.C.S.) (this R Mathew) R Mathew 9-11-5 A Thomston | PS5841- BALLYDOUGAN 220 (V.C.S.) (this R Mathew) R Mathew 9-11-5 A Thomston | PS5841- BALLYDOUGAN 220 (S. Hernschot) M PRoson 6-10-12 | M Marston 12, 6-6,51 (M Banks) M Banks 11-10-12 | D Bridgester | PS5842 CLADTOURA 24 (ES) (48 5 Miss) Proprietty I Wildows 9-10-12 | D Bridgester | PS5842 CLADTOURA 24 (ES) (48 5 Miss) Proprietty I Wildows 9-10-12 | D Bridgester | PS5842 | D BATTES GAVALUER 13 (BF.D.F.S) (W Corel D Gancello 7-10-12 R Dentectory) | 130 | 2312-23 EHTEFAM, 12 (F.G) (4m M O'Nehy) J King 6-10-12 | J Callory | PLS1- MANWER 291P (S) (4m S M O'Nehy) J King 6-10-12 | M A REQUESTER | PLS4-B CREPAIN 879 M (40 M S I Reston) F Moster 7-10-12 | B Powed | 111 | PS5842 | PS6842 , 7-2 Dayles Cacaller, 6-1 Bank Aresus, 7-1 Balledongest, Scolley, 8-1 Cleriscost, Vistage Classi, 10-Mayres, 12-1 others,

1896: WHATTABOB 7-10-12 M A Fragesald (7-2) N Hender FORM FOCUS:

Bank Avenue 4561 3rd of 10 to Ralazzona Beau in newice chase heri (2m 61, good to soft). Cloritoura 2561 2nd of 11 to Wandering Covalies 51 4th of 5 to Wise King to newice chase at Sandown (2m 41 100/d, good). Britishad 13 and 11 to Damper Fryim in handscap handle here (3m, soid). Rioss Dancer 9561 3rd of 8 to Cheeky Charitle in handscap hundle at Folkestone (2m 61 100/d, good). Scothly 411 3rd of 8 to this The Clam in newice chase at Windson (3m, good) entit Virtuage Claret (same terms). 551 6th. DANTES CAVALLER gets the nod over Scotby, who caved in all too quickly last time

1.40 Broadways stampings plum pudding claiming hurdle (£2.105, 2m 5f) (12 runners) SETTING: S-2 Lassdoman, 3-1 Making Reid, 9-2 Castle Secot, 11-2 Evir Smile 7-1 Second Fathle, 12-1 Fortunas Rose, 14-1 Section's Nervo, 25-1 others.

1999: ROBERTY LEA 8-11-12 P Nives Green key Nirs M Revolvy 11 can Second Fiddle neck 2nd of 13 to Primative Heart in novoce irandicap hurdle at Wetherby (2m 4f 110yd, good to soil) Native Field heat Lansdowne (15th better off 5f in 9-manner claiming hurdle at Haydock (2m 4f 190), good) Section's Million 4f 2nd of 11 to Weather Wise in setting hurdle at Fauthon (2m 110yd, good) Castile Secret 55f 7th of 18 in Deann's Beend in handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m 6f 150yd good). Castile Secret 55f 7th of 18 in Deann's Beend in handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m 6f 150yd good).

LANSDOWINE is weighted to reverse Haydock placings with Native Field



TRAINERS: D Nicholson, 29 witners from 73 numers, 98.7%, Miss V Wislams, 4 from 12, 33.3%, R Curtis, 6 from 22, 27.3%; Mrs. J Pierren, 12 from 49, 24.5%; K Bailey, 12 from 81, 19.7%; M Pop. 7 from 36, 19.4%; N Henderson, 8 from 42, 19.0%.

JOCKEYS: J Mages, 3 witners from 9, roles 33.3%; R Durascody, 16 from 70, 22.9%; A P McCoy, 12 from 53, 22.6%; R Massey, 4 from 20, 20.0%; N Williamson, 13 from 65, 20.0%; M Brenner, 22 from 123, 17.9%.

GUIDE TO OUR IN LINE RACECARD

113143 6000 TRMES 13 (EF.F.G.S) (Mrs D Robinson) 8 Had 12-0 B West (7) 88 Resourced number. Six-figure forms (F — lett. P — poiled up U — useseted rider. B — brought down. S — stipped up H — retised. D — despetabled. H — there's rem. Days streen lest upon F if flet. (B — blinders. V — visor. H — thool. E — Eyeshield. C — course wigner. D — weight. Rider plats any allowance. The Times distance effect of CD — course and distance. Times distance effect of CD — course and distance.

2.10 LADBROKE MISTLETOE HANDICAP CHASE (£5,272: 3m 1f) (9 runners) Z131-2 POUCHSP, 22 (8F.D.) Mrs A Wood T Forster 7-11-10 S Wymne
114-F42 CATS RUM 19 (D.F.S) (Mrs A Wood) J Upon 9-11-2 R Supple
134-F42 CATS RUM 19 (D.F.S) (Mrs A Wood) J Upon 9-11-2 R Supple
135 04482-2 SPECSAL ACCOUNT 13 (D.F.S.S) (T Finallo) C Banvall 11-10-11 R Fection 131 (214-18 GERFAL TONC 17 (6.5) (Saragel Rednig D Gardello 10-10-9 R Demondry 120 (1114-18 GERFAL TONC 17 (6.5) (N Demondry 120 (1114-18 GERFAL TONC 17 (6.5) (N Demondry 17 (6.8) (N Demondry 17 (6

1996: PRICE'S HILL 9-10-10 C O'Doner (4-1) K Bailer 12 cm FORM FOCUS.

Poucher 101 2nd of 9 to Sophie May to handicap chase at Worcester (2m 71 110pd, soit). Cats Run 301 2nd of 6 in Speaker Weatherfil in handicap chase at Memastile (3m, good). Special Account 101 2nd of 7 to Materiol Castle in handicap chase at Memastile (2m 71 110pd, soil). General Tonic 121 3rd of 4 to Escarlefigue in novice chase at Worcester (2m 71 110pd, good). Native Venture 12 2nd of 5 to Karar in handicap chase at Plumpton (2m 5, soil). Hill Trick 211 4th of 7 to Carole's Crusader in handicap chase here (3m 11, good to soil). Dollkos 1141 2nd of 4 to The Tokesch in handicap chase here (3m 11, good to soil). Dollkos 1141 2nd of 4 to The Tokesch in handicap chase at Humpingdon (2m 4f 110pd, good). BOOTS MADDEN looks well breaked on handicap chase debut .

2.40 LEVY BOARD SANTA CLAUS NOVICES HURDLE (92,705: 2m) (18 runners)

BETTING: 11-4 Babet High, 7-2 Braces Run, 5-1 Go Cabouts, 6-1 Royal Diversion, 8-1 Cabic Sesson, Fortunes. Flight, 10-1 Lunar Dancer, 12-1 Shirtey Versione, 16-1 others. 1898: RED BLAZER 5-16-12 J Osborne (3-4 Bay) Miles H Keeglet 16 tan

Ballet High 24:1 4th of 14 to Polydamas in novice hurdle at Hembery (2m 110yd, seth, Bracery Run 111 3ed of 21 to Country Builder Boy 34 3ed of 12 to Line Of Consenses in market herdle at Bangor (2m 110yd, soot). Builder Boy 34 3ed of 12 to Line Of Consenses in market herdle at Bangor (2m 11, good to soit). Fortieres Flight 35! If in 6 20 to Melody Mark in institute hurdle at Bangor (2m 11, good) using 15 mm). Bo Cahouts beat Darky Dora neck in 17-namer 8H Bat at Bangor (2m 11, good). Lunior Dancer 171 3rd of 8 to Knightsbridge Lad in NH 8at race at Cariste (2m 11, good to 5min). Paddy's South 79:1 4th of 17 to Harlequin Citorus in novice burdle at Warnick (2m, good to 5min). Paddy's South 79:1 4th of 17 to Harlequin Citorus in novice burdle at Warnick (2m, good to 5mil).

BRACEY RURI appeals on his encouraging reappearance at Sandown

3.10 CHRISTIMAS CRACKER HANDICAP CHASE

1996: BEATSON 7-11-1 8 Powell (6-4 tax) R Buckler 5 ran

Captain Khedhe tell in handican chase at Leicester (2m 4f 110)d. good); previously 43 5th of 5 to Page Warting in handican chase at Handick (2m 4f, good). Per The Parson a distance 2m of 5 to Pegenariae in handican chase at Cheshow (2m 3f 110)d. soft). Priently Knight 12 3rd of 7 to Pegenariae in handicap chase at Folkestons (2m, good). Parliamentarian best Aedean St In 5-numer handicap chase at Folkestons (2m, good). Parliamentarian best Aedean St In 5-numer handicap chase at Folkestons (2m, good). PARLIAMENTARIAN goes well here and can deny Pete The Parson

3.40 My STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE

.361: 2m) (18 (arres)
ARDFANAN (Milisted Racios (ecoporates) Mrs J Pierce 4-11-4 . R Farrest
0- BERTIE BAVARD 260 (Mrs R J Hauditon) & Johnson Houseton 5-11-4 A Thomson
O G D BOY 36 (C D Northern Ltd) G NicCoast 4-11-4 D Bridgester.
5- DEPUTY LEADER 222 689 (Newbory Owners) N Henderson 5-11-4 M A Reported
3 FATHER MICCARTEN 12 dd Decessio 14 Pinoss 4-17-4
5 LORO MAX 13 Ales S Richardson) Mrs. S Richardson 5-11-4 Mr S Darrick (5)
D MARKET SPRINGER 12 (G Pytes) J L Hatts 6-11-4
5 MBMELLG BOTT 54 (M/st) Sector 1 April 2-11-4 1 Comply
277777- MOST VITAL 2509 Calayor B Thomason) W G M Tenner 6-11-4 . J Godddala (7)
CREATE DAY & Mas & Progney Visitings 5-11-4
0(0000500000) Of Specify C Barnell 4-11-4 If feeting
RUSSEL ROND (Mrs. L. Field) D Michalson 5-11-4 R Massey (3)
THE PRODUCT POLINO (MI LOR) R Guites 6-11-4 J Parithorne (7)
WARNING BOARD (1 Joses) 1 Joses 6-11-4
CALLYOPE OR Settlers & Count 5-10-13
G- RAMELLODA 271 (1 Brown) Brown 5-10-13
SECOND AMENOMENT (Sir Medical Control) Lady Control 4-10-13 Mr P Scott
O SHARP PRACTICE 17 (1) OTHER) J G OTHER 5-10-13 S CATES
DNG: 5-2 Father McCaster 7-2 Milner's Bull 4-1 Russell Road, 5-1 Andienme, 7-1 Depostr Leader.
mate. 25-1 Benne Baserd, Lord May, 33-1 others.
1000 CONFICER C 11 Ct C Library (7 % Lim 1 Decemb 15 mg

Bertie Beward 28 1-2h of 21 to Russet Blues in NH feet cace at Worcester (2m. good to firm) Deputy Leader 401 5th of 16 to Concholor in NH feet race at Worcester (2m. good to sait). Feather McCarden 344 3rd of 14 to Musikali in NH feet race at Worcester (2m. good to sait). Feather earns) 191 9th Lord Max 321 5th of 16 to Karbon Normales in NH feet race at Hereford (2m 1/1 good). Witner's Bill neck 2mt of 15 to Sanday Venture in NH fiet race at Luddow (2m. good).

DEPUTY LEADER, made toyounte on his only start, is worth another chance

YESTERDAY'S **RESULTS**

Bangor

Golog: good to soft

12.40 (2m 11 hdie) 1, DONTDRESSFORDINNER (T Descombe, 9-1); 2, Ericolin (X Alzporu, 2-1 fav); 3, Carrolls Rock (J Mages, 11-4), ALSO RAN; 8 Brumon (Shi), 9 Evezio Rufo (4th), Milling Brook, 14 Eben Al Habbeels (Shi), 50 Althrey Anstocrat & ran, 5½, 11, 17, 81, 101, R Hoolges at Sometion, Tote: E9.90; \$2.40, £110, £1.10, DF, £8.60, CSF; \$25.05, Tricast; \$27.49.

Johnson, 12-11; 3, Prussia (G Tormey, 40-1), ALSO RAN: 8-1 Balenak (4th), 9 Bell Staffboy (5th), 5 ran. 4, hd, 22, dist. M Pripe at Wellington, Tote: \$1.20; \$1.10, \$2,70. DF; \$2.80, CSF; \$3.97. DF: 82.80, CSF: 83.97.

1.40 (2m, 4f 110yd ch) 1, BURNYT MP (J. Calleghan, 4-6 fev); 2, Mountain Path (M A Fitzgerald, 13-8); 3, Wren Wartoler (B Powell, 14-1) AUSO Rank: 25 Leishane Oats, 25 Princely Affeir (Bh), 33 Captain My Captain (Sh), 40 Hgh Hended (4h), 7 ran, 254, 34, 1141, dtd., 1141, G Moore at Middlehlern, Tole: \$1.80, \$1.10, \$21.80. \$15.90.

21.80. CSF: 22.03.
21.0 (2m 1) hole) 1, ZAHAALE (W Marston, 9-1); 2, Impaia (J Goldstein, 15-2); 3, Admirat's Guest (G Tormey, 6-1). ALSO RAN: 11-8 tas Galbors, 8 Pearl Anniversary, 8 Indian Nectar (49), 12 Adicionario (6th), 20 Alimeriam (5th), 25 Rehive's First, Gold of Arebia, Lillo, Shawfey, 33 Lysander, 13 nan NF Albert The Lion, 41, 144, 38, 1, 144, J Pickering at Wigston. Tote: 214 30; 23.20, 22.00, 22.00. DE: 251.70 The: 213.9 60. CSF: 287.38.
240 (4m 16 1. MISTER BLAKE (6 DF: £51.70 Trice £139 60. CSF: £67.38.

2.40 (4m 1f) 1. MISTER BLAKE (R. Thomton, 5-1; Richard Evanst's naph); 2, Statmasphil (Miss S Barraclough, 20-1); 3. Lay R Off. (S Curan, 7-1). ALSO RAN, 5-2 law Siciachtal (f), 7 Top Javelin, 9 Keano (4th), 14 Delce Menthall, 16 Glerofarn Princess, 40 L'Uomo Piu. 9 nan. 201, 14, 191. R Lee at Predicipna. Totre £6 80; 51.70. E32.90, £1.80. OF. £56 80. Trice £22.80. CSF: £50.98. Tricast; £642.53.

3.10 (2m 4f 110)d ch) 1, JYMJAM JOHNNY (A P McCoy, 11-8 tev), 2, Sister Rosza (J Magee, 3-1); 3, Brambieterny (Fichard, Guest, 9-4), ALSO RAN, 12-1 Dollkos, 14 Bob Deveni (4%), 5 ran. NR: Selesan 3f, 4, dez, J J O'Nelli at Parnith Tote: E2.30; £1 70, e2.60. DF: £3 70. CSF: £5.89. S5.69.
3.40 [2m 11 Rat] 1, BASSEY (M A Fitz-gerald, 2-1), 2, Pfileoden (F Massey, 8-4 lan); 3, Bucisalion (A P McCoy, 10-1), ALSO RAN: 7 Tales The Casts, 8 Jeion (Sh), 12 Brymer Lass, Durisaven Lady (4th), 20 Mor's Boy (8th), Nr Lendbrin; 33 (gloo, Meny Christines, Nurse Best Friend, Sherp Practice, Vertical Air, 50 Woody Soud, 15 rat, Sh 14, 29, 11, 44, rik, N Henderson at Lambourn, Tote: \$4.20; 51,90,57.20, \$2.20. DF \$2.50 Trior \$4.10. CSF-\$5.74.

Jackpot: £7,053.60. Placepor £55.80 Quadpor £20.80 Catterick

Going good

1.00 (3m 1f 110yd ch) 1, CLARABELL (8
Storey, 5-4; 2, Prime Example (F Carbery,
11-10 fav), 3, Suf Posto (R Wilderson, 20-1)
ALSO RAN: 16 Gale Force, 20 Morald
(5h), 50 Desperate Days (8h), 65 Frumeny
(4tt), 7 ran: NR: Feels Like Gold, 7, 26; 4,
19, 21, J Charlton at Stocksfield, Totes
(210: \$1.10, \$1.40, \$0.75; \$1.50, \$1.57; \$2.61. 22 10: S1.10, S1.40, DF. S1.80, CSF. 32.61.
1.30 (2m 31 hdie) 1, ONCE MORE FOR
1.10K (P Niven, 4-5 tay): 2, Kalasahda (A.S.
Smith, 9-9; 3. Highfield Fet (C. MoCormack, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 20 Native
Song (4th). 33 Blue Lugarra (5th), Menoo
Who (f), The Operator, 50 Archie-T (5th),
Law Desagner, 100 Dano's Gid. 10 rem 388,
20, 211, 18, 25, Mrs. M Reveloy at Salthum.
Toles 52 (0: S1.20, S1.20, S1.80, DF. 32.60).
Tol: 52.20, CSF: \$2.07, No. bad. 100: 22.21 CS** 22.07. NO SUPER [Mass A Deniel, 5-4 tay); 2, Mr Fadge (M H Maughtan, 9-2); 3, Reve De Valae (K Johnson, 12-1); ALSO RAN' 2 Karenastino (4th), 14 Judiosi Field, 5 ren 3/al, 277, 141. A

Locimond, Total 82 10; £1.20, £1.90 DF: £5.10, CSF: £5.67 25.10. CSF: 25.67.
2.30 (2m 31 bdie); 1, BITRAN (Mr R Hate, 20-1); 2, Distant Stoom (Mr J L Llewellyn, 13.65; 3, Toby (Mr M Brachume, 4-1), ALSO RAN: 6-4 tay Charley (4th), 18 Lady Cleares (6th), 33 Emeraid Verifure (6th), 6 nn. M; 2, 9, 223, 201. B Rethwell at Warthill. Tota: £17.00: £2.30, £1.10. DF: £44.50 CSF: £49.19 249 (2m ch) 1, MINSTER GLORY (F Cerbery, 9-4); 2, Shining Edge (f, Wayer, 1-2 tay); 3, Cademux Premiere (F) Miren, 16-1). ALSO RAN 20-1 Forther (f) 4 ran. 9, 12, M W Easterby at Shorth Philon. Total 52,70 DF: 51-10. CSF 53 62.

DP: £1.10 CSF: £3.62
3.30 Zm hdiej 1, POINT DUTY (R Surple, 11-2); 2, Lumbeck Ledy (G Lee, 9-1); 3, Lord Of The Hings (F Carborry, 10-1) ALSO RAN: 2 for Perpetual April (4th, 6 Galopho Guns (f), 8 Lay The Barne (5th), 20 Public Way, Sandabar, 10 ara, 71, 3, 2, 71 kl, 171, F Murtagh at Carlisle, Tohr £6.40; £250, £4.40; £1.40. DF: £25.10. Tho: £55.70 CSF: £53.16. Throst: £446.51.
Placepot £91.50 Quadrate 578 on Placepol: £91.50 Quadpot: £85.90, ☐ Exeter abandoned — snow

THUNDERER Notation. 1.20 Pine Ridge Lad. 1.50 Live Project. 2.20 Rubarnma. 2.50 Lady Laphroeig. 3.20 Shadow

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

11.50 RIVER IDLE CLAIMING STAKES (Div I: £1,944: 1m) (16 runners) (DIV I: £1,344: 1m) (16 rumbers)

1 0456 YEDMAN OLARS 5 (8,00) B McMehon 4-9-2 ... 1. Newton 16
2 0021 SARATOSA RES 5 (8,00) B McMehon 4-9-2 ... 1. Newton 16
3 0020 SARATOSA RES 42 (8) W O'Gornen 3-9-1 ... R Cochràns 5
3 5204 SENTICO 10 (V.CD.F.G.) Mrs N Marantey 8-9-12 G Fankour (5) 12
4 0000 CAMERIDER BLIE 12 (Y) I Semple 3-9-17 ... M Tebbol 0
5 0000 PARTI II SARX 152 (D.F.G.) D Mehalls 4-9-10 A Michael (7) 10
6 3544 SOLD ANSTOCRAT 5 (5) B Holischard 6-8-6 ... F Lynch 8
7 3160 CABCHARGE BLIE 12 (20.75) T Namphas 5-8-5 ... T Souske 11
8 0000 PARST GOLD 84 (G.F.R.S.) J Warring 4-8-5 ... T Williams 4
10 0400 WARP DEIVE 27 (8) W Mair 3-9-3 ... T Williams 4
10 0400 WARP DEIVE 27 (8) W Mair 3-9-3 ... Martin Dayer 14
11 1560 MEDLAND 10 (D.F.) B McMark 7-8-2 ... D Crishes 7
13 0000 BALLFES 31 (8,00) J Parkes 3-9-1 ... A McCartby (7) 12
14 2200 SOURCE LASSE 68 (CD) C Hombon 3-8-0 ... Dais Shone 15
15 0050 SOURCE LASSE 68 (CD) C Hombon 3-8-0 ... F Norton 5
16 00 SOURCE LASSE 68 (CD) C Hombon 3-8-0 ... F Norton 5
16 00 SOURCE LASSE 68 (CD) C Hombon 3-8-0 ... F Norton 5
16 00 SOURCE LASSE 68 (CD) C Hombon 3-8-0 ... F Norton 5
16 00 SOURCE LASSE 68 (CD) C Hombon 3-8-0 ... F Norton 5
16 00 SOURCE LASSE 68 (CD) C Hombon 3-8-0 ... F Norton 5
16 00 SOURCE LASSE 68 (CD) C Hombon 3-8-0 ... F Norton 5
16 00 SOURCE LASSE 68 (CD) C Hombon 3-8-0 ... F Norton 5
16 00 SOURCE LASSE 68 (CD) C Hombon 3-8-0 ... F Norton 5
16 00 SOURCE LASSE 68 (CD) C Hombon 3-8-0 ... J Selector (7) 2
11-2 Sarabaga Red, 7-1 Yeogram (Giver, Book Arisboczat, Sandka, 10-1 otiers.

12.20 AVON HANDICAP (Div I: £1,944; 7f) (16)

1 5-00 REDOUBTABLE 90 (D.F.G) D Chapman 6-10-0 2 0000 MR PARADISE 23 (0.F.S) R Count 3-9-12 M McCacthy (7) 3
5004 GRU 24 (0.F.) J Full 3-9-16 D Mora 5
4 3004 GRU 24 (0.F.) J Full 3-9-9 Marin Dayer 12
5 0160 GRU SESS 8 (0.F.) S Mora 3-9-9 R Pentam 4
4 145 GRULL 12 R (2.D.) R Barin 3-9-7 R Pentam 4
4 145 GRULL 12 R (2.D.) R Barin 3-9-7 G Partic (3) 2
7 3400 JACK 6475 TO (6) 0 Start 3-9-5 G Findings (6) 11
9 5001 GOOMERSHAM PARK 24 (C) P Feight 5-9-4 Decret M-Carry 1

9 0505 JESSAW BOY 27 (CD,F.S) P Marphy B-9-4 ... 5 Dominis 1 10 1000 ZAN DARCER 110 (CD,F.S) P Marphy B-9-4 ... 5 Dominis 1 10 1000 ZAN DARCER 110 (CD,F.S) D Micholy 5-9-3 Rise Genete 12 11 4400 CARRI OFAL 251 (G) D Barber 3-9-2 ... 1 Williams 12 12 0000 HOM MASSED SA VICE,P R Dominis 4-9-1 ... A Mickley 5 13 0000 AMY LEBH 19 (N.C.) 14 Wilson 4-9-1 ... A Mickley 8 14 0435 CLINOC S R Ingran 3-9-0 ... A Mickley A Mickley 5 (BLP) F Wilson 5-8-13 5 Carron (7) 16 18 0000 GEMBER JOHN 24 (B.C.) 1 Parkes 4-8-12 ... S Wilson 14 4-1 Godnersbarn Park, 11-2 Gdo., 13-2 Tallwind, Jigsaw Boy, 7-1 Claren, 8-1 Gobieses, Zen Cancer, 16-1 others

12.50 CUCKMERE HANDICAP (£2,294: 1m 6f) (13)

1 0113 WHITE GRANGE BOY 31 (BF,CDLS) J Byer 4-10-0
0 Pears 13
2 444- MONDERAGON 467 (D.F,G) Mrs M Reviey 7-9-13 S Copp (S) 5
3 4813 PHARLY DANCER 24 (BF,CDLS.S) W High B-9-10
6 Parish (3) 8 3 4813 PHARLY DANCER 24 (BF,CD,6.5) W Halph 8-9-90
4 5629 BONGUSTA D'OR 78 6 Hain 3-0-2
5 500 PARTHODIANSA 10 J I Harts 5-8-9 R Winston (5) 10
8 0020 TAM O'SPINITEN 150 C Decetor 3-8-9 Dean MacKeens 11
7 0400 SPIESTRY 64 J Parkes 3-8-8 Dean MacKeens 11
7 0400 SPIESTRY 64 J Parkes 3-8-8 Dean MacKeens 11
7 0400 DRIFFOOD, SPINITEN 150 C Decetor 3-8-9 Dean MacKeens 11
9 0-00 DAFFOOD, SPINIS SZ M N Ryan 48-1 D BIOS 12
10 6052 COURSE RESIDENCE 71 (7) 8 Michigan 5-8-0 L Hearthy 6
11 0-00 DOUBLE CHO 20 FF,8.5 J Bethell 9-7-13 T Williams 4
12 0000 RUSH C PARLED 12 M Hartshell 5-7-12 J Colon 1
13 0508 AL AVA COMBONNED 20 J Bethell 3-7-10 P Door (7) 3
2-1 Planty Dancer, 3-1 Whitely Garge Boy, 7-1 Mackengon, Course Fiching, 8-1
Botation, 18-1 Sherin, Doubte Echn. 28-1 obses.

1.20 RIVER IDLE CLAIMING STAKES (Div II: £1,944: 1m) (16)

(Div II; £1,944: 1m) (16)

1 6335 RAMBO WALTZER 194 (CD.F.S) D Nichols 5-9-2 A Strongs 3
2 0510 JOSEPH'S WINE 307 (R.Dr.CD.F.G.) J Winston 8-3-13

3 0126 ELTON LEDGER 226 (V.BF.C.F) Mrs. N. HARZBER 8-8-12

4 0000 KRECHUP BOY 10 (V.CD.F.G.) M Byan 8-8-12

4 0000 KRECHUP BOY 10 (V.CD.F.G.) M Byan 8-8-12

5 0843 PIME RIDGE LID 14 (CD.F.G.) M Byan 8-8-12

9 0840 LICEN STYLE 24 (D.F.) N. HOSEPHORA 4-8-10

9 0840 LICEN STYLE 24 (D.F.) N. HOSEPHORA 4-8-10

9 0840 DAMS ROCK 27 (G.F.) M RITE 3-8-4

9 0840 PEL GRYNGE 27 (B.F.) M RITE 3-8-4

9 0840 PEL GRYNGE 27 (G.F.) M RITE 3-8-4

10 0840 MRSTERTON 24 (CD.F.) A Ringblan 1-8-2

10 0840 MRSTERTON 24 (CD.F.) A Ringblan 1-8-2

11 4860 MRSTERTON 24 (CD.F.) GROW 3-8-3

12 0000 MANACA BROSEC 2D (CD.) A Ringblan 1-8-2

13 4860 JAMACA BROSEC 2D (CD.) A Ringblan 1-8-2

14 -000 MTECHIN RADER 67 (C) M Warring 4-9-2

15 SEO PROSES RE 20 (G) D Captonin 7-8-2

A MacCarby (F) 11

16 0 KOMPLETELY 27 J Neads 3-7-12

A MacCarby (F) 11

16 10 KOMPLETELY 27 J Neads 3-7-12

A MacCarby (F) 11

16 10 KOMPLETELY 27 J Neads 3-7-12

A Hoseph 6-1 dhers.

4-1 Pirte Ricige Lad. 5-1 Ranzbo Wallow, Daies Rock, Joseph's Wice, 8-1 others.

1.50 AVON HANDICAP (Div II: £1,944: 7f) (16) (UN II: 21,944: /T) (16)

1 0250 PET EXPRESS 164 (CD) P Hasiam 3-10-0 P Goods (7) 11
2 0400 PROUT MORK 55 (0.5) M /R Bostley 4-9-11 T Surviva 4
3 2400 SHADES 0F LOVE 88 V Soare 3-9-10 R Cockrave 14
4 0031 CAMDILLO 27 (0.5) Mer P Dutled 4-9-9 J Grim 13
5 5000 STATUYORK 10 (BF.D.F) D Staw 4-9-8 J Farming 2
8 0000 CH.LURS 10 (8.6) T N Touter 3-9-8 W Pylor 12
8 0000 CH.LURS 10 (8.6) V Touter 3-9-8 W Pylor 15
7 0430 SE WANNED 10 (V CD.F.G.) J Pearca 6-8-4 M Wighton 8
8 -400 SHE'S A CRACKET 148 Mrs N Macasiey 3-9-4 S Whitton 9
18 4032 CONCER APAIL 27 (EB) S C Williams 3-9-3 Dean O'Noll 12
16 21 MISTAMS (20 (D.) C Thouston 4-9-2 Dean McKaone 2
17 0400 TIME OF NIGHT 75 J Rys 4-9-1 Dean McKaone 2
18 3545 EUROQUEST 136 (C.) D Michols 3-9-4 A Methods (7) 15
14 0002 DERLY 24 (6) R Dodd 4-8-13 P Mundy (7) 1
15 1400 BORWALIA MEL 52 (V.C) A Streets 3-9-12 R Hawfor (3) 10
16 0100 MAC GATES 20 (6) P Hedge 4-8-12 Dean McC Goods (9) 13-2 Cambin, Concar Aral, 7-1 Saloyori, 60 Warned,

8-2 Mustarry, 11-2 Dendy, 13-2 Cardillo, Concer Arall, 7-1 Statoyork, Be Warned, 8-1 Euroquest, Mac Outes, 12-1 olbers. 2.20 THAMES NURSERY HANDICAP (2-Y-0: £2,882: 7f) (16)

8 1430 FARTY DOMINO 10 (5) M Coloro 8-11 PP Ministry (5) 3
7 000 RAMBINACE 51 M Juris 8-11 W Riyan 15
8 1400 LINNELSCRIS 105 (V.D.G.) 0 Chapman 8-10 Sporks 12
9 1100 WORT FORGET ME 73 (D.P.) I Sample 8-8 D Blages 8
10 406 ELLA FALLS 74 0 Michael 8-7 A Michael (7) 13
11 6080 SFALED BY FATE 132 (N.) 4 Ministral (7) 13
12 0242 "M TEF 12 (BP) 7 Eastbody 6-2 R Winston (5) 2
13 0004 ESSAMBESS 42 J Fire 7-13 T Williams 1
14 000 BESAMB FURS 11 (D.) 4 Fire 7-13 T Williams 1
15 000 OMANTS CRYSSEY 21 P Ministel 7-12 J Domin 5
000 OMANTS CRYSSEY 21 P Ministel 7-12 J Domin 5
000 OMANTS CRYSSEY 21 P Ministel 7-12 J Brannis 18
7-7 Mantee Colore 4-9 W Holgh 7-10

2.50 SEVERN FILLES SELLING STAKES (2-Y-O. £1,999: 71) (16)

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15	0500	THE DRUBDESS 19 (8) & Brasery 8-9	P F
16	6	THE ORLANDESS 19 (8) 6 Sensory 8-9 TREST SELVANIO 154 of Quant 8-9	2044
J Ph	's Add	Sing, 5-1 Lady St., Lady Landrovice, She's A Gene, 8-1 ;	
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3.20 TRENT APPRENTICES HANDICAP

1 0400 ZIGGY'S DANCER 54 (D.F.S) E Alston 6-10-0 1 0400 ZIGGY'S DANCER 54 (D.F.S) E Alston 6-10-0 Metamic Worden (7) 6
2 5600 ANTONIAS MELDITY 33 (B.C.G.S) S Bouring 4-9-4
3 9620 BROADSTAIRS BEAUTY 41 (V.BF.CD.F.G.S) D Stor 7-9-4
4 0421 PRIACESATE JACK 30 (B.CD.F.G.S) J Beny 6-9-2
5 4304 MARY CORRINALLIS 20 R Casell 3-9-0 Producy (5) 16
6 Faulture 1 Secret 74 June 6 July 1 12
5 4304 MARY CORRINALLIS 20 R Casell 3-9-0 For Faulty (1) 16
5 4304 MARY CORRIVALLIS 20 R Casell 3-9-0 For Faulty (1) 17 4 OCT PRIACEGATE JACK 30 (B.CD.F.G.S) J Berry 6-9-2

5 4304 MARY CORNWALLS 20 R Court 3-9-0 P Bradey (5) 16

6 6016 CANDIAS HEART 54 (CD.F.G.S) Bob Jones 8-4-13

7 0632 TEAR WHYTE 16 (D.F.) T MRS 3-8-11 Usa Hasset (7) 10

9 2341 NOSH, 181 (3) (5) I Berron 4-8-10 Victoria Appeloy (5) 15

9 2341 NOSH, 181 (9) (CD) Mrs 14 Nacaday 3-8-5 D Williams (5) 12

10 1000 SHAH 131 D Nicholds 4-8-3 Corolyn Bales (5) 5

11 1102 AFAAN 10 (R.F.D.F.G.S) R Maron 4-8-5 P Seption (5) 1

12 5003 RAPPER STAR 10 (V.C.D) Mrs 14 Nacaday 4-8-7 P Doc (5) 1

13 0003 SHAHOW LEWS 62 (D.F. O Nicholds 5-7-12 A Nicholds (5) 7

14 6007 LEBOOK LEWS 62 (D.F. O Nicholds 5-7-12 A Nicholds (5) 7

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRANSPOS: P Misroby, 3 wisomer, from 9 resours, 32.3%, M. Jarves, C. Frum 23, 26.1%, Mir. M. Reveley, 27 from 113, 22.9%, W. U'Gommer, 27 from 130, 19.0%, M. Byers, 22 from 128, 17.2%, 27 BORN 130, 18400, or upon an even tea, 17400, G Poble, 10 from 51, 1868; J Biggs, 24 from 137, 17575, R Harfin, 3 from 19, 1557; R Cocheser, 23 from 160, 144%; A McGiore, 8 from 57, 1440%.

Northampton earn lucrative derby from cup victory

By Our Sports Staff

IAN ATKINS, the manager of Northampton Town, was able to look forward to an FA Cup third-round game against Leicester City yesterday after his side survived a penalty shoot-out at Basingstoke Town in a hard-fought secondround replay on Tuesday

The Ryman League hosts held the Nationwide League second division side to 00 after 120 minutes, but then missed twice from the penalty

Leicester in the next round is great for the players, but also financially for the club— it's a terrific draw." Atkins

Carl Heggs scored the winning penalty in the 4-3 shoot-out, but said: "Full credit to Basingstoke. They were terrible conditions, but we stuck to our task and thankfully we came through." Emie Howe,

said: "We are disappointed, but that's the luck of penalty shoot-outs. I'm proud of my players, who showed what a good all-round outfit they are. We have got stronger in each of the games we've played against league opposition and proved a match for them." Chesterfield, who reached the FA Cup semi-finals last

season, made an early exit this time with a 2-0 home defeat against Grimsby Town in their second-round replay. A goal from Jack Lester in the 22nd minute and another 11 minutes from time from Paul Groves eliminated Chesterfield, who had recovered from two goals down at Blundell Park to earn the replay. Grimsby now entertain Norwich City, of the first division side, in the third round.

The class of Cheltenham, the Vauxhall Conference club, finally told over Boreham Wood, from the Ryman

Sedloski transfer hangs in balance

SHEFFIELD Wednesday's hopes of finalising the trans-fer of Goee Sedloski for £1.75 million from Hadjuk Split have been dampened after the Macedonia international failed a medical yesterday. The news on Tuesday that Sedloski. 23. would face a delay in obtaining a work permit means that his debut for Wednesday looks further

away than ever. Ron Atkinson, the Wednesday manager, refused to confirm the extent of the problem. but said: 'The X-rays have shown up something which could later give him some trouble. We will now have to renegotiate and restructure the deal because we want to safeguard our interests. I still want the player to join us. but we will have to look for an incentive scheme, like a payas-you-play type deal."

sign Sedloski could be tempered by the player's club, who will also have to agree to the package. Atkinson added: They [Hadjuk Split] are going to have him looked at by their medical people and we will then have to see where we go from there." Even if Wednesday agree

Atkinson's enthusiasm to

terms with Hadjuk, they could have to wait for up to a month before Sedloski can obtain a work permit. ☐ Nigeria's Football Association announced yesterday that Bora Milutinovic, the former Mexico coach, has been chosen to lead the national side at the 1998 World Cup finals in France.

minute and Jimmy Smith finished the job in the 68th to take Cheltenham through to a home he against Reading. Steve Cotterill, the Cheltenham manager, said: "We didn't play particularly well in

League. Bob Bloomer put the visitors ahead in the 42nd

the first game and we didn't play that well today, but we put in a thoroughly professional performance and it's fantastic to reach this far." Bob Makin, the Boreham

Wood manager, said: "I'm absolutely devastated with that performance because my whole team did not perform." Two extra-time goals from

the Watford teenager, Gifton Noel-Williams, ended Tor-quay's hopes of a second consecutive cup win over second division opposition after their defeat of Luton Town in the first round. Noel-Williams broke the deadlock at Vicarage Road when he scored just seconds into the additional 30 minutes and then he scored again in the 108th minute. In between, Gary Clayton scored for Torquay. Watford are at home to Sheffield Wednesday in the third round.

Kevin Hodges, the Torquay head coach, said: "I could not have asked more from my team. They showed tremendous character." A ninetieth-minute equal-

iser for Preston from Dave Moyes and a winner from David Eyres six minutes into extra-time broke the hearts of Notts County, the third division pace-setters, at Meadow Lane. Sean Farrell's 51st-minute goal seemed to have put County through against their second division opponents and given them a chance to embarrass first division opposition at home to Stockport County.

Hereford United beat Colchester 5-4 on penalties after a 1-1 draw at home. Steven Forbes put Colchester ahead, but Neil Grayson equalised within seconds. Hereford are at home to Tranmere Rovers



Everett, the Swansea winger, breaks through the Durham defence; he scored a try as Swansea won easily, 27-11, away from home in the North East-based pool one. Photograph: Raoul Dixon

Darricarere kicks Toulouse to semi-final berth in the wind

By MARK SOUSTER

THE likely semi-final line-up in the inaugural The Times Students European Rugby Championship emerged after the second round of games yesterday. University of Wales, Institute of Cardiff (UWIC), Swansea and Toulouse all won for the second time. while Oxford or Cork will contest the outcome of pool four.

in France, where Toulouse and Loughborough knew that the winners would almost certainly progress to the last four from pool two. In front of a crowd of more than 1.500, Toulouse

edged home 26-22. half, Loughborough took full advantage and led 22-3 at half-time after scoring three tries. It was a different story in the second half as Toulouse replied with 23 unanswered points. Jeannard, Joanny and Mattalia each scored a try, but the French side had to wait until the final five minutes before David Darricarère dropped a

In the other game from the pool, University College, Dublin beat

Northumbria 140. Qualification from the North Eastbased pool one rested between Swanthrough Fabrice but then buckled under Dublin's attack.

UWIC continue to set a cracking pace in pool three and, on their present form, look a sound bet to win the tournament. After rattling up more than 100 points against Queen's, Belfast on Monday, they put 60 points past Exeter at Cyncoed yesterday.

Despite the conditions, UWIC's

class was readily apparent as they built up a 20-9 half-time advantage. Exeter, whose points came from three, Owen Ashton penalty goals, had no answer to UWICs speed and ball handling as Graham Thomas helped himself to a hat-trick of tries, while Steve Jones and Gavin Evans each scored two, Carl Morgan, Jonathon Williams and Adrian Evans also got

UWIC's final game is this afternoon, against Edinburgh, who surprisingly lost to Queen's. Belfast. The Scottish side led 15-0 at half-time, but

Oxford and Cork tomorrow. Oxford proved too strong for Cardiff Medicals, winning 27-3, yesterday. late kick-off.

Richmond pave way

RUGBY UNION

in the Cu

for return of Hallett

By DAVID HANDS RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

RICHMOND, having moved into third place in the Allied Dunbar Premiership with victory over Leicester on a bitter Tuesday night, could hardly keep them-selves out of the public eye yesterday. Their announcement of a new chief executive, Tony Hallett, will create waves at nearby Twickenham, while they also found themselves involved in a spat with Bristoi over an alleged stamping.
Hallett resigned as chairman of Rich-

mond — then lurking in the third division of the Courage Clubs Championship when he became secretary of the Rugby Football Union (RFU) in 1995. His period at the helm became a chapter of conflict since it coincided with the introduction of professionalism and he resigned in August after a series of disagreements within the RFU, in which Hallett and Cliff Brittle, the chairman of what was then the executive committee, were perceived as the main protagonists.

Hallett, 52, will replace Symon Elliott, who is taking up a position in the City, in January. "It is ironic that I was chairman of Richmond in the amateur days and now I am back in the hectic world of professionalism," Hallett said. Back, moreover, with one of the more hawkish members of the first division, though the RFU would not disagree with his sentiments regarding the development of

English players.

"The non-English players are making a big contribution at most premiership clubs now," Hallett said, "but, for the good of Richmond and English rugby, we hope to produce home-grown players of a similar, or better, standard. It is easy to spend money now when you have access to a rich investor, but we want to utilise our developing mini/youth section and our development academy as a pipeline for English players coming into the first XV. Money available also needs to be used to develop the ground and its facilities."

In the wake of Tuesday's 32-15 defeat of Leicester, however, Richmond found that Barry Williams, their Wales hooker, has been cited by Bristol, who claim that he stamped on the head of Paul Burke, their fly half, during the 13-12 win at the Memorial Ground last Saturday. "Paul is severely shaken by the incident and is still having difficulty moving his jaw," Fred Howard, the Bristol rugby managет, said.

Though Richmond, in a statement, refuted the allegation, they have fined the player. "We do not condone foul play and we are sorry to hear that Paul Burke sustained an injury," the club said.
"However, having reviewed the video evidence, we categorically refute that Williams intended any injury to the player - indeed, his foot seemed to make contact with the player's chest. If we all must work on this basis, then Richmond must, in turn, cite Phil Adams for his deliberate stamp on Craig Quinnell [for which Adams received a yellow card.

victory over Leicester, who have lost their half backs for the forthcoming game against Harlequins as a result. Joel Stransky, the South African fly half, will be out for three or four weeks after displacing a rib cartilage and Jamie Hamilton, the scrum half, sustained a trapped nerve in his neck, which makes it likely that Austin Healey and Waisale

Serevi will form a new half-back pairing. Bristol, who hope that they can resolve their financial problems by selling their ground and leasing it back, have signed Adam Larkin from North Harbour, the New Zealand first division province. Larkin, 23, can play centre or fly half......

Scots ask for Danish double

The military government in

Nigeria has given its approv-

al to the choice and the

contract is expected to be

SCOTLAND are trying to arrange two matches against Denmark next March so that they can give as many players as possible the chance to impress before the World Cup

The first-choice team is due to face the Danes, who have also qualified for France, on March 25, probably at Ibrox. Craig Brown, the manager, is also keen to arrange a B team match so that he can test his fringe players. The Danish football association has been approached, but is not expected to give its decision until the new year.

Scotland are due to face

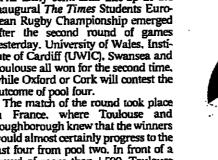
BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

Finland in April before probably embarking on a two-match trip to the United States the next month. Then they will settle into their French base in St Remy de Provence as Brown finalises his preparations for the opening match against Brazil, the World Cupholders, on June 10.

Meanwhile, Scotland's leading ten clubs confirmed yesterday that they will reject a new proposal from Bell's Scottish League first division teams in the dispute about a new premiership. It is understood that the first division sides, who

met at Love Street, the home of St Mirren, yesterday, will be campaigning for an immediate premiership of 12 clubs from next season before they give their blessing to the breakaway. They are also understood to be seeking compensation of a minimum £2.5 million each year for the next 20 years to be paid to the Scottish League.

However, Lex Gold, the Hibernian chairman and spokesman for the premier division clubs, said: "Our position remains unchanged - we are driving forward towards establishing a new league at the end of this season."



Playing with the wind in the first goal and added a late penalty to earn

his side victory.

sea and Durham, the hosts. They met yesterday with Swansea emerging as



the winners 2/-11. Durham took the lead through Lee Cholewa, but a sustained period of Swansea pressure and some slick handling earned them tries by Owen Jones and Griffiths, the

The turning point in the match was the concession in injury-time of the first half of a soft try scored for Swansea by Donovan, the right wing, for a 17-5 lead. Further scores by Everett and Lewsey maintained Swansea's comfortable advantage. Also in pool one, a hat-trick of tries

by McLoughlin, the left wing, was the prominent feature in Dublin's 45-12 defeat of Roma, who took the lead

a change of shirts from blue to more traditional emerald green at the interval did the trick for the Irish. They ran in five tries, which included a brace for John Patton, the full back. The winners of pool four will be

decided by the final match between Cork's match against Bristol was a

the capital. He played in a trial match for West Ham United against Bournemouth at Dean Court last week, watched by Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, and Frank Burrows, the reserve team manager, and was invited to train for a week with the London dub.

"I reckon I've got another few good years left in me," Matthews said. "It's not too late for a goalkeeper to go into the pro game

He may be right. Peter Shilton was 47 when he reached



Miles has attracted the attention of Leyton Orient

Late developer makes light of age concerns

an Wright, of Arsenal and England, is the footballer most often beld up as an inspiration to all potential late developers who dream of glory while slogging round the parks or performing in front of a few hundred people in the semiprofessional game.

However, even Wright has nothing on Adie Miles, who is close to joining the professional ranks at the age of 36, when many players are considering hanging up their boots for good.

Miles, a striker who plays for Bognor Regis Town in the Ryman League, was spotted by Leyton Orient scouts during a game against Wembley, in which he

scored a hat-trick in only 21 minutes. He scored his 23rd goal of the season, in his 27th game, in Bognor's 4-0 win against Thame United on Saturday and was due to play for Orient in a match against Tottenham Hotspur last week until the weather intervened.

Nevertheless, he has been invited back to Brisbane Road by Tommy Taylor, the Orient manager, and seems to have few doubts about his ability to grasp his opportunity. "I know I'm getting on in years in terms of becoming a professional footballer, but I'm the fittest I've ever been," Miles said. He had a six-year rest

between the ages of 16 and 22

Nick Szczepanik on the striker ready to take

a belated step into professional football

when, he said, "I literally never kicked a ball", preferring to concentrate on badminton, which he played to county level in Essex, rather than pursue a possible eareer with Southend United. Working as a diamond setter, he appeared occasionally for Sutton United and Woking. among others, before joining Bognor from Pagham, of the

Unijet Sussex County League first division. "At 30, 31, I started improving again," he said. "Jack Pearce [the Bognor manager has really got the best

He is in his third season with Bognor, during which time he has scored 73 times and finished as leading scorer in each season. Among those hopeful that Miles is successful will be the headline writers, for whom the potential of Bognor's rough diamond is manna from

It could, of course, be something in the sea air around Bognor. Colin Matthews, the goalkeeper, a mere stripling at 28,

at my age." 1,000 league games last season — for Leyton Orient.



CRICKET: DAMP CONDITIONS MAY ASSIST AGAINST AUSTRALIA IN WORLD CUP

England face true test of strength

has gone.

not out off only 157 balls, two

more than Edwards faced

during her 173 not out against

Clark, though, believes Eng-

land will be a different propo-

sition. "This will be a good

yardstick to where the teams

stand," she said, "If we were

Ireland on the same day.

THE England women's team face their toughest test so far in the World Cup today when they play Australia in Nagpur in the final round of qualifying matches before the quarterfinals. The winner of the match will top pool A and should enjoy the easier draw through to the final.

After a hard-fought victory over South Africa a week ago, England have enjoyed embarrassingly easy victories over Pakistan, Denmark and Ireland, passing 300 runs in 50 overs on all three occasions and winning by 230, 194 and 208 runs respectively. Australia, thrice winners of

the World Cup, will be desper-

ate to atone for their unexpect-

edly poor showing in 1993. when they lost to England. With opposition thus motivat-

ed, this match will go a long way to indicating whether England are capable of retaining their crown. They should be full of confidence in the batting department, with Jan Brittin, Barbara Daniels and Charlotte Edwards having scored centuries, but they have dismissed only Ireland in their matches to date.

It would be churlish to be critical of the bowlers; when a side is defending 300-plus scores, it is difficult to create pressure in the field. Criticism can be levelled, though, at the

playing in Australia, it would be different, but the conditions FROM THRASY PETROPOULOS IN NAGPUR decision by captain and manin India pull the teams closer together. agement to bat first against Those conditions are likely Ireland. England have yet to field first on this tour and have

to be damp and muggy and more to England's liking. Engcome to India out of season. The time for experimentation land will be desperate to gain the upper hand against the Australia are fresh from a team they could easily meet in 363-run victory over Denmark in Bombay, in which Belinda Pool B concluded yesterday Clark hit a world record 229

with India involved in a thrilling tie with New Zealand in Indore and Holland defeating Sri Lanka by 47 runs in Jaipur. All four teams progress to the quarter-finals. with West Indies missing out. ENGLAND: "K Smithes, S Metcalle, C Edward:, J Britin, B Deniels, †J Cassar, M Reynard, K Lang, C Commor, S Redlam, C Teatre

MCC hierarchy backs election of women

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

A SPECIAL general meeting of MCC has been called for February 24 to decide whether to admit women as members for the first time. The committee is supporting the proposal. Roger Knight, the club sec-

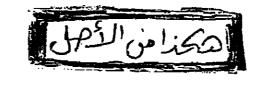
retary, has sent members a report of last week's meeting, when the committee decided on the radical change. "The committee, by a large majority, has now reached the view that the time has come to adopt the rule changes necessary to allow for the election of ladies to the membership of the dub," Knight writes.

"While the committee hopes that the membership will share these conclusions, it

acknowledges that this is a matter for each individual member to decide for himself. A two-thirds majority of votes cast will be required."

The committee's support. along with the backing already voiced by Colin Ingleby Mackenzie, the president, is cause for optimism, according to Rachel Heyhoe-Flint, a persistent campaigner.

Highlights from the final of the Champions Trophy between England and West Indies in Sharjah tomorrow will be shown on BBC Grandstand on Saturday. Hampshire have signed Peter Hardey, the long-serving Yorkshire seam powier.



EQUESTRIANISM

*Smith loses chance of World Cup **Success**

By JENNY MACARTHUR

ROBERT SMITH'S hopes for a second successive win in the Volvo World Cup qualifier at the Olympia show jumping championships, which start today in the Grand Hall. Olympia, have been dashed because of the withdrawal of Senator Tees Hanauer, his

FEA SHIOM

hmond

return lallen

The 17-year-old gelding, whose performances at the Amsterdam, Brussels and Berlin qualifiers this season have lifted Smith to No 10 in the World Cup rankings, has sustained a slight tendon injury and will be rested until after Christmas.

Smith, who is the only Briton to feature in the top 20 of the World Cup rankings, will now ride either Senator Scharn or Senator For The Best in the qualifier on Saturday afternoon, but, with both horses only recently back on the circuit after "niggling" injuries, he does not rate his chances of success very highly in what looks set to be the most competitive qualifier of the season.

Nine of the top ten riders on the present world ranking list are competing, including Willi Melliger, of Switzerland, the Olympic silver med-al-winner, and the two leading German riders, Ludger Beerbaum, the European champion, and Franke Sloothaak, the world champion.

Great Britain, which boasted four riders in the top ten six months ago, now has only John Whitaker, but Geoff Billington, Michael Whitaker and Nick Skelton, ranked at No II, No 12 and No 17 respectively, will all attempt to themselves

John Whitaker, although at No 3 in the world rankings, is also in need of a boost. His disappointing performance in Berlin last month, where he sustained a heavy fall in the qualifier after Welham failed to clear the back pole of a parallel, has left him trailing in as joint-No 57 in the World Cup rankings - from which the top 19 qualify for the final in Finland in April

Whitaker, who competes today in the opening Petplan family pairs relay with his son, Robert, and daughter, Louise, will decide tomorrow whether to ride Virtual Village Welham or Grannusch on Saturday afternoon.

Billington, who, in It's Otto, has the most talented horse of the 16 Britons competing, is hoping Bob Ellis, the course designer, will "build big" for the qualifier. "The more difficult it is, the better for me," Billington said in a reference to his Dutch gelding's effortless scope. In both Berlin and Geneva the only two World Cup events in which he has competed this season, a frustrating four faults in the opening round kept him out of contention.

Billington, a natural showman, can be guaranteed to help entertain the 67,000 who will flock to Olympia this week. The Show's winning formula - devised by the late Raymond Brooks-Ward 26 years ago - stems from its mix of serious showjumping and Christmas frivolity.

Win Christmas fizz

By SIMON BARNES

MAGIC numbers and free champagne: what more could possibly be desired by anyone with sporting blood in the veins? Once again, The Times is able to offer bottled bliss, in the form of Nicolas Feuillatte champagne, to anyone who contributes a Magic Number this Christmas.

A Magic Number is one that carries immense sporting weight. Some numbers carry weight for all time, like Don Bradman's 99.94 or Torvill and Dean's 6, but every year throws up new numbers. How about 78, 0, and 0? These are the numbers for Michael Schumacher: the 78 points he was docked for crashing into Jacques Villeneuve, the zero points he was left with and the zero fine he was given. I will



judge the numbers for their champagne-worthiness. Entries should be sent to me at:

The Sports Desk. The Times.

1 Pennington Street,

London El 9XN

or by fax to 0171 782 5211. The final collection is to be published shortly after Christmas, so do it soon.

Sporting legends who have gloried in excess avoirdupois

Roly-polies can pull their weight



🕇 hristmas is coming and sportsmen are gerting fat - and some of them are not at all happy about turning into sporting Shane Warne, the Australia Test cricketer, rolled out of a news conference in Mel-bourne, wobbling with rage after being asked about his

weight.

He was attending the unveiling of a waxwork model of himself when he was asked by a reporter if he preferred the leaner lines of his wax image. That's why I don't answer any questions from you blokes," Warne spluttered. That's it, you've ruined it.

Thanks very much."

Warne should learn to watch his sense of proportion — for the glorious truth is that sport has always had its helping of fat boys and, as long as they have been able to produce great performances, they have been loved and respected by players and spectators alike.

Sportytubbies are naturals, and Warne shouldn't worry too much because cricket is one of them. Dr W. G. Grace, the father of them all, was a giant of a batsman in every way - though, in his youth, he was slim and athletic enough to win gold medals on the track for hurdling.

Concern over Ian Botham's waistline at times ate up as many column inches as analysis of his averages, while Mike Gatting fought a long but losing battle against his love for Branston pickle sand-

Back in Australia, the critics of Warne should remember the fine play of Warwick Armstrong, the captain who led them to eight successive wins over England in 1920 and 1921. He took to the pitch at well over 20st and was known affectionately as The

Big Ship".

Despite the best efforts of the diencians, football, too, has always had its share of fat favourites — none more criticised for his weight than Paul Gascoigne, whose size goes up and down like a Richard Branson balloon. In Italy, they got him down from 14st 71b to list 41b by putting him on a Mediterranean diet which meant red wine instead of pints of lager.

In some sports, like tug o'war, wrestling or American football, the extra ballast can be a positive advantage. William Perry, the American footballer, who played for the Chicago Bears in the Eighties, was employed just for his size. He weighed 28st and was known as "The Refrigerator".

†A Jacobs, M Miobo, M Holmes, N Evans and J Albane did not bet.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-38, 2-201, 3-209,







Konishiki, a Sumo wrestler known, not surprisingly, as "The Dumptruck", makes Botham, left, and Gatting, both partial to a good lunch, look sylphlike figures while "Fatty" Foulke, the mountainous English goalkeeper, pales in comparison

Some sportsmen grow fat Jocky Wilson is no disadvan-without trying, while others tage and snooker's tubbies are practically force fed. in Sumo wrestling, they like to select their future champions an, who gloried in his 20st and as children and fatten them steadied his arm with eighup like geese being pumped for their pâté de foie gras.

In darts, the figure of a

can take their cue from Bill Werbeniuk, the great Canaditeen pints of lager per match. Boxers, of course, like jock-

Members Trophy: Second round: Areley I Cheshurt 0 Fall Members Cup: Second round: Leathernead 2 Chestey 1 Guard-lan Insurance Cup: Third round: Carvey Island 2 Hitchiri 0, Carshelton 1 Balericay 0. Romford 3 Bromley 1; St Albans 1 Bedford Th 1 (set 1-1 after 90mml; Wolangham 1 Walten and Hersham 0.

WenstonLead Kent League: Pinst division: Stade Grean 2 Shappey 2, Whitstable 1 Folkestone Invecta 4

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Arundel 0 Wick 1; Lyttehemoron 3 Chichester 1 John O'Here Cup: Fourth round: Portfeld 3 Pagham 0

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN LEAGUE: Cup: Second round: Tow Law 3

Jamow Rooling 2
ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND
COMBINATION: Premier division: Chesiyo

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEA-GUE: Premier division: Drss I Woodbridge II, Wrotham I Great Yarmouth I JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First di-

vision: Lymragon 3 Gospon 0; Andover 4 Eastleigh 1, Bournemouth 0 Totton 2 Wimborne 4 Thetcham 3

Hay 2 knowle 1

often have real problems when they try to lose surplus pounds too rapidly in the runup to a contest by fasting or make the weight. The danger is that they will go into the eys, have always been preocring dehydrated, badly weak-

cupied with weight. They

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Prinsburgh Tempa Bay 1 (OT), Washington 2 New York Islanders 2 (OT), Caroline 2 Ottawa 1, New

Jersey 4 New York Rangers 3, Calgary Chicago 3 (CT), San Jose 5 Detroi 1

RACKETS

CUEEN'S CLUB: Public schools champlonships: Jim Dear Cup: First round: M Holland (Mahem) bi G McCham (Chetterham) 15-8, 15-12. Howard (Eloni bi M Ginray (Cherterhouse) 7-14, 15-8, 1 Joy (Chetterham) bi H Adar (Marborough) 15-8, 16-14. W Montgomery (Torchdoe) bi A Hoare (Marborough) 15-8, 15-11, P Mchamber (Marborough) 15-8, 15-11, P Mchamber (Marborough) 15-8, 15-11, Ji yon

ry. The super-heavyweights. of course, have no such problems and are often remembered as much for their size as for their skill. So it is for his nickname that we recall the American heavyweight "Twoion" Tony Galento rather than for the fact that he was beaten by the great Joe Louis.

The secret of many a fat sportsman of the past has been to acquire a memorable nickname, to relax and to glory in the power of his size. Perhaps "Waxy" Warne could learn a lesson from these giants of sporting history.

The greatest of them all was surely the formidable English goalkeeper. William "Fatty" Foulke. He was sometimes also known as "Little Willie" and he kept balls out of the net for his country in the late 19th

He once hit 23st and helped Sheffield United to two FA Cup victories and one League championship. He was said to be able to carry a man under each arm and to regularly punch a football as far as the halfway line.

On one occasion, he brought a game to a halt when

'In some sports the extra ballast can be a positive advantage'

he snapped a crossbar. Another time, he had to be carried off injured, but he was far too big for the stretcher and it took six strong men to

He was also feared for his temper. In one game, he picked up George Allan, the Liverpool centre forward, and planted him head first in the muddy goalmouth. Liverpool won as a result of the penalty that followed.

On another occasion, when "Fatty" was on a losing FA Cup final side, he was enraged by the decisions of the referee, Tom Kirkham. His anger boiled over as he lay in the team bath after the match and a few minutes later a vast, steaming, naked goalkeeper was seen charging around Crystal Palace hunting the hapless official.

Foulke transferred as captain to Chelsea in 1905, taking with him his legend and his appetite. One morning before a match, he got into the dining room ahead of his team-mates and, finding the food ready, polished off all eleven breakfasts.

When they cried foul and called him all sorts of names. he replied with a line that Shane Warne would do well to borrow — "I don't care what you call me, as long as you don't call me late for dinner."

Pool three

Pool four

JOHN BRYANT

27 Cardiff Med

PWD L F A
7 7 0 0 195 103
... 6 6 0 0 180 109
7 4 0 3 168 135
... 6 4 0 2 184 181
... 5 3 0 2 142 110
6 3 0 3 176 169

SKIING

VAL. D'ISERE: Women's World Cup downhalt 1, K Setzinger (Ger) 2mm 1 82set (Imm 01 67sec, Imm 00.21set); 2, H Gerg (Ger) 202 31 (101 62, 1:2069); 3, IH Martsin (Nor) 2 02,44 (1:01 59, 1:00.85), 4, M Sucher (Fr) 2/03 02 (1 01 74, 1:01 29), 5, R Cavagnoud (Fr) 2/03 20 (1/01 75, 1 01 45)

POOLS DIVIDENDS

shots: £17.25 (paid on two correct) Premier tent: £275 (paid on nina correct)

ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP: division: Richmond 32 Leicester 15

VOLLEYBALL

Financial cuts force Britain to disband

By JOHN GOODBODY

THE Great Britain men's team has had to be disbanded because of cuts in funding from the taxpayer. Although the team has only had a properly-funded programme for seven years, it has enjoyed recent success, including victories over Australia, Romania. Saudi Arabia and France.

However, after a review by the United Kingdom Sports Council and the British Olympic Association, it was decided that "until such time as qualification for the Olympics becomes a real prospect for indoor volleyball, the development of the sport within the United Kingdom would be best administered at a home country level". England, Scotland, Wales and Northern ireland are members of the International Volleyball Federation, while Britain has never qualified for the Olympics since the sport became a regular part of the Games

programme 25 years ago.
The British Volleyball Federation (BVF) had applied for a grant of £84,000, but the UK Sports Council has given it £43,000 in the present finanrial year and "transitional funding" of £25,000 for 1998-99 so that "key development projects for the sport can continue to be supported until new funding partners can be

The decision has been met with outrage. Mike McKeever, the BVF secretary, said: With nothing for young talent to aim for, the sport's youth is bound to be lost either to other games or, worse, to

British sport altogether. "Even run-of-the-mill players will have little incentive to improve. The bid for medals will have been put back more than the seven years and the Government's 'Sport for All' policy will have lost some of its credibility.'

ROWING

Amateur era ends at Henley

By MIKE ROSEWELL ROWING CORRESPONDENT

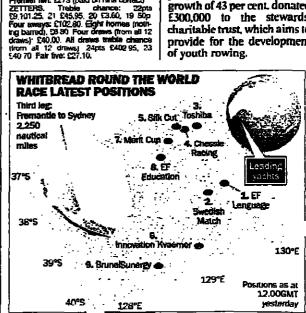
THE stewards of Henley Royal Regatta have broken a 159year tradition and abandoned the requirement that all competitors at their meeting should be amateur. Mike Sweeney, the Henley chairman, said: "The stewards recognise that the concept of an amateur status is no longer valid at the highest levels.

"Henley is, therefore, following the lead of Fisa, the international governing body. which removed all references to 'amateur' in its rules and introduced a new concept of 'eligibility' last summer.'

Henley will not turn away foreign crews who are paid to row or whose sponsors promise win bonuses. The Amateur Rowing Association (ARA) has yet to clarify its "amateur" rule for British crews, but changes could come before the next Henley meeting. Another era ended vester-

day when Di Ellis, the chairman of the ARA, became the first directly-elected female steward of the regatta. Two other new stewards, Richard Stanhope and Richard Phelps, are former Great Britain internationals.

Membership of the stewands' enclosure increased to 6,410 from 6,042 in 1996. 14 per cent to £3.7 million and Henley Royal Regatta Ltd. the event's sister trading company, after recording a growth of 43 per cent, donated £300,000 to the stewards' charitable trust, which aims to provide for the development of youth rowing.



DISTANCE TO FINISH (as at 1200GMT yesterday, with miles to Sydney): 1, EF Language (5we) 1,210.5 miles: 2. Swedish Match (5we) 1,222.6; 3, Toshiba (US) 1223.5, 4, Chessie Racing (US) 1,226.2; 5, Silk Cut (GB) 1,231.1; 6, Innovation Kvaemer (Nor) 1,233.7, 7, Merit Cup (Monaco) 1,243.5, 8, EF Education (5we) 1,246.2; 9, BrunelSurergy (Holl) 1,253.9.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL EUROPEAN CUP: Rhondorf (Ger) 71
London Towers 64
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (MBA): Cleve-lend 103 Phoents 90: Mazrr 95 Useh 103: Loc Angeles Lakers 109 Mazrresora 96: Near York 83 Detroit 78: Houston 118 Vencusver 91, Denver 85 Sen Antono 99; Golden State 103 Dallas 92. Los Angeles Cippers 94 Seattle 109, Sacramento 94 Pontland 87 Total (4 wids, 38.5 overs) . CRICKET

World Series Cup Australia v New Zealand WELBOURNE (New Zealand won cost) Vustralia beat New Zealand by six wickets NEW ZEALAND

L Carms to Wilson S P Flemmig c Bevan to Wilson D McMillan c Harvey 5, Warne A C Parare a Gitchnsi b Wilson... C Z Harns not out D L Vetton o Warne b Bevan G R Larsen c S R Viaugh b Bevan Extras (ID 4 w 5, no 5; .

Total (49.3 overs)..... FALL OF WICKETS 1.5, 2-9, 3-19, 4-45, 5-45, 6-45, 7-75, 8-108, 9-108

Answers from page 42

will his

of wanted

BOWLING: Wisson 10-0-39-3; Dala 10-2-22-2; Warns 10-2-25-1; Bevan 10-0-26-2; Bichel 9-0-17-0; Harvey 0.3-0-8-0. AUSTRALIA

I J Harvey, A Dale, P Wilson, S K Warne and A J Bichel did not bal FALL OF WICKETS: 1-17, 2-22, 3-22, 4-117. BOWLING, O'Cornor 10-0-43-0; Cauns 10-3-40-4; Vettori 9-1-32-0; Harris 9.5-1-23-0 Umpires R Emerson and D G Hair.

South Africa ... Tour match

WORD-WATCHING

(b) Relating to water or moisture. From the Greek hugros moist, wet, "The patient has complained of hygric sensibility, that is to say whatever she touches with her hands feels wet to her."

(a) A paper money (in full mandat territorial) issued by the French

Cf. mandate, "In early 1796 the assignats were replaced by the mandats territoriaux (land warrants) at the rate of one mandat for 30

assignars. The failure of the mandat to gain public confidence forced the Directory to return to a metallic currency (Feb 4, 1797)."

(2) In Hindu mythology, the name of the ball of Siva which is his

value or vehicle, and symbolises fertility. Also a figure or statue of value or vehicle, and symbolises fertility. Also a figure or statue of Nandi. In Sanskrit it means "the happy one". "The majestic Nandi, the control of the sanctum in the force of the sanctum in the force of the sanctum."

(c) A jerky, hoisted shot at cricket. Also hoik. Also used for a jerky

er money in run manual territorial issued by the reach mary Government from 1796 to 1797, replacing the assignat.

South Africa Students v England Under-19 PORT ELIZABETH (first day of four, South Africa Students won loss). South Africa Students have scored 255 for four wickets against England Under 19 SA STUDENTS: First brokings

Tuesday's late results

Grove.

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP: Beroda: South Africa vin by 143 runs. New Delhi: Holland 138 () Payne 55; S Sivenatiran 4-18). Sn Lanka 91 (S Kottman 4-24) Holland why 47 runs. Indotre: New Zeeland 17-69 (E Drumm 69); India 176 (A Jain 61). Match tied **FOOTBALL** CONFEDERATIONS' CUP: Czech Repub-ác 8 United Arab Eminales 1: Uruguay 4 South Aincs 3 (both in Riyadh).

Nonthempton away to Lescaster City; Boreham; Wood & Chellenhem Town 2 (Chellenhem home to Reading). Creaser-held D Gimnsby Town 2 (Brimaby home to Nonwich Chry; Hereford United 1 Colchester United 1 (ast; 1-1 after 90mm; Hereford win 5-4 on pens; Hereford home to Transmer Povers; Notts County 1 Preston North End 2 (ast; 1-1 after 90mm; Preston home to \$500kport County; Watterd 2 Torquay 1 Roversi, Notis County 1 Preston North End 2 (set: 1-1 after 90mm; Preston home to Stockport County); Wattord 2 Torquay 1 (set: 0-0 after 90min, Wattord 1 Torquay 1 (set: 0-0 after 90min, Wattord 1 Torquay 1 (set: 0-0 after 90min, Wattord home to Shelffeld Wednesday; Wattord American Conference of Shelffeld Wednesday; VALDCHALL CONFERIENCE: Spaiding Cup: Quarter-finale: Hayes 3 Yeoval Town 0; Northwich Victone 3 Heonesland Town 2 (set: 1-1 after 90min). BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Second division: Chyde 0 Queen of the South 0 FA CARLSBERG VASE: Third-round replays: Histon 3 Brook House 0, Sudbury Windre 3 Camberley 1 UNIBOND LEAGUE: First division: Congleton 2 Droyleden 2, Cup: Third round: Altinichem 4 Coleyn Bay 2; Blytin Sperians 4 Frokley 1: Marine 1 Runcom 0, Unitide Cup: First round: Witton 0 Trafford 2. DR MARTIENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Atherstone 0 Worcester 2, Dorchester 2 Stringbourne 0, Numeaton 3 Goucester 1 Southers division: Gevedon 2 Waterlooville 1 Cup: Second round: Both 1 Newport (John's 2; Button 5 Moor Green 2; Cambridge Cay 1 Hinckley Utd 0: Hastings 1 Margias 2, Struthridge O Solhuil 0 FRYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Behop's Stortford 1 Hendon 2. First division: Abhondon Town 2 Wembley 0; Hamoton 2 Hamoton 7 Town 2 Wembley 0; Hamoton 2

4-240.

BOMING: Tucker 16-2-48-1; Grove 17-1-75-0. Napler 9-2-18-1; Provell 14-5-25-1; Schröder 19-5-41-0, Gough 12-2-35-0; Haywood 3-0-7-0 ENGLAND UNDER-18: "S D Peters, I N Demonator, M. A. Grubb, G. P. Sterm, G. R. Pianagan, M. A. Gough, G. P. Swann, G. R. Haywood, G. R. Napler, J. C. Fowell, C. P. Schofield, †N. J. Writon, J. T. Tucker, J. O.

Conditions Runs to Oll/p 93 good powder aft (Some good skiing on open runs) 110 good powder tair (Excellent skiing conditions) 15 70 95 good powder closed (Excellent skring on upper pistes) SUN 35 60 good varied fair cloud (24 runs open with some good sking) 5 70 fair varied closed lai (Limited skiling at the moment with strong winds) 30 120 good varied tair cloud (Very windy yesterday marring, higher lifts closed) 45 120 good varied

AUSTRIA Kitzbuhe Obergurgi Wastendorf FRANCE Chamonix Ay many year loop man ing. mgma miss says thong winds and poor visibility, good on glacier) 40 60 good varied art cloud (Good skiing higher up. 46/100 litts running) Tignés Val d'Isère SWITZERLAND (Best skiing above 2,200m but strong winds) 45 105 good powder art fi (Excellent skiing with 25 lifts open) Source: Ski Club of Great Britain, L - lower stopes; U - upper; art - artificial

SNOW REPORTS (5pm) Last cloud -5 17/12 cloud -1 17/12 -2 17/12 fair varied closed windy -5 17/12

Joy (Cheltentram) is H Acter (Martborough) 15-8, 15-14. W Moragomery (Tortbudge) bt A Hoase (Martborough) 15-8, 15-17. P Molecute-Charmagon (Radley) bt J Lyon (Welnigon) 15-8, 11-15, 15-0, A Coldicon (Chelter-harm is B Dancy (Radley) 15-9, 15-12 T Carter (Harnow) bt B Sheel (Chelter-harm 16-12, 15-12, L Daives (Marthern bt W Short (Radley) 15-9, 15-12 T Carter (Harnow) bt B Sheel (Chelter-harm 16-12, 15-12, L Daives (Marthern bt W Short (Radley) 15-9, 15-12 T L J Baley (Winchester) wo S Hollingsworth (Charter-house), K Behal (Harnow) bt J Charter-house), K Behal (Harnow) bt L Tulley (Charter-house), 15-8, 15-2, A Hussain (Eron) bt T Groaves (Rugby) 15-8, 15-4, K Myers (Radley) wo D Jackson (Rugby), C Goodman-Smith (Martborough) bt E nines-Kern (Eron) 17-15 15-8, 15-11, R Hall (Elon) bt N Lermy (Harnow) 15-5, 15-0; J Smethmart (Harnow) bt J Cronk (Torthoroge) 15-3, 15-7, B Townsond (Elon) bt S Hitl (Malvern) 15-4, 15-0; G Actarns (Torthoroge) 15-3, 15-7, B Townsond (Elon) bt S Hitl (Malvern) 15-4, 15-0; G Actarns (Torthoroge) 15-13, 15-9, M York-Long (Radley) bt B Sloop (Martborough) 15-13, 15-2, Septon forum to Burnett (Chelternham) bt P Harnohn (Charterham) 15-9, 15-9, M York-Long (Radley) bt B Sloop (Martborough) 15-13, 15-2, Septon forum to Hall 15-2, 16-3, 15-1, Cocknott bt Carter 15-8, 17-14, Daves to Baley 15-8, 17-14, Bchab bt Hussain 16-13, 15-10; Goodman-Smith bt Myers 15-7, 15-0; Willis bt Goodman-Smith 15-3, 15-9; Seabrook bt Rodern 15-9, 15-6, Breis bt Tridal (Tonbridge) bt B Sale (Halvern) 15-9, 15-6, Willis th Goodman-Smith 15-3, 16-9; Seabrook bt Moragomery bt Dorthoroge 15-11, 15-9; Coudman-Smith 15-3, 15-9; Seabrook bt Moragomery bt McCarter 15-9, 15-10; Moragomery bt Reserved 15-9; Seabrook bt Moragomery bt McCarter 15-9; 15-10; Hall 15-0; Seabrook bt Moragomery bt McCarter 15-9; 15-10; Seabrook bt Morago Wimborne 4 Thistoram 3
GBLERT LEAGUE CUP: Second round:
Second leg: Rhayader Town 0 Barry 8
(Barry swn 16-0 on agg)
CALOR COUNTY ANTHIM SHBELD: Quarter-finals: Distribuy 4 Ballyclare 1, Dundelstanne 0; Limfeld 1 Octionwide 0 (act Linfeld win 6-5 on pens): Portadown 0 Crusaders 1, Linchett Barry 1, L wm o-5 on pers; Portadown Corescents; THE 'THRES FA YOUTH CUP: Second round: Manchester Chy 3 West Bromwich 2 (aet: 2-2 shz: 90mm). SCHOOLS MATCH: Premier League Tro-phy (Linder-16): Hampshire 4 Berkshire 4 GERMAN LEAGUE: Borussia Dottmund 3 Heartis Refer 0. GERMAN CUP: Quarter-linels: Uerdinger 0 VIB Stuttgart 4. Carl Zelss lena 1 MSV Duisburg ? CONFEDERATIONS' CUP: Brazil 3 Mexico ERNATIONAL MATCH: Zemba () No **FIXTURES** PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Deby County v Aston Villa (at the Basebell Ground, 7.0) Cup: Group three: Notis County v Leicester City (7.0) FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Dundalk y Shamoor JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First di-vision: Whitchurch v Courses Sports (7 20) **RUGBY UNION** The Times Students

OTHER SPORT BASKETBALL: Men's National Cup: Servi-imal, second leg: Lecester Riders (74) v London Towers (76) (80) Pool one ICE HOCKEY: Supertengue: Shelfield Steelers v Basingstoke Bison (7:30). Ex-press Cup: Menchisers Storm v Ayr Scottsh Eegles (7:30). Cardiff Devils v Notingham Panthers (7:0) Durham Roma Pool two

European championship 6 LICD

stroke at rowing and in aeronautics a jerky pull on the stick by the pilot while flying. "Lindwall's one scoring stroke was an ungainty hotck for six." SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

I. ... QbS; 2, Ret Nxg5; 3, Rxe8+ Qxe8; 4, Qxg5 Qel checkmate.

Hamed gets ready to land decisive blow in defence of his title



Warren, Hamed's promoter, poses with his boxer and with Hamed's opponent, Kelley, left, at a press conference at Madison Square Garden

Angry Kelley eyes main chance

ver the past two weeks. Naseem Harned has been selling himself with great success on television and radio here, but Kevin Kelley, his opponent tomorrow at Madison Square Garden, has been reluctant to talk. He claimed that he has been too busy training for this contest in the Pocano Mountains of Pennsylvania.

In fact, he is not inclined to help HBO, the television cable company that is backing Hamed, to sell the bout. In the Eighties, Kelley would promote his appearances by driving around New York handing out pencils with his name on them, sweets, cookies and T-shirts, but, on this occasion, he has refused to do even that.

The reason is simple. Although Kelley was a regular on HBO boxing presentations for many years, the company is paying big money to Hamed, who is little known in the United States, and not to him. Hamed is receiving \$2 million (about £1.2 million) for this contest. Kelley just \$600,000.

While television stations are captivat-

From Srikumar Sen, boxing correspondent, in new york

given him prime time coverage, the newspapers have not been over-generous to the Sheffield man. New York boxing writers are hard to please and are never too enamoured of Britons at the best of times. They are suspicious of hype and publicity and have preferred

to listen to the complaints of their man. Kelly surfaced on Tuesday at a face-to-face press conference at the Garden and, after engaging in a 20-minute shouting match in which no one could understand what he or Hamed was saying, he could not stop putting his point of view to journalists. He could not understand why a Brooklyn boxer should get second billing to a foreigner. Seth Abraham, the head of HBO and

the man backing the British boxer with a multimillion-dollar deal, had an answer for him, however. "I told Kevin: 'And God bless you if you beat him.' He will get the same commitment from HBO as Hamed is getting."

Lou Di Bella, the vice-president of

HBO, went further: "This represents a ed by Hamed's showmanship and have great opportunity for Kevin," he said.

"He's a terrific, exciting HBO fighter. If he beats Hamed, he will move up to a level of popularity that he didn't have before. Kevin will benefit from the publicity that we've done for Harned."

Yet that hurt Kelley even more. After all, having given years of loyal service to HBO, did it need a foreigner to make his cause deserving? Phil Borgia, his trainer, said: "Words are cheap. We heard such talk before, but we ain't seen HBO take the walk yet."

Kelley added: "Hamed didn't start all

this - I did. I was the first to put the featherweights on the map after 25 years. That's why Hamed and Junior Jones and Kennedy McKinney and all the others are getting the kind of treatment that I should have got a long time ago. They are jumping the gun with this guy. They are putting too much into a man who is not known, who does not come from this city, even this country. People have thrown money at him like tuna fishes."

You can't blame Kelley for complaining. He has never had it easy. Despite him a beating. He needs it."

being the No I contender in 1991, he had to wait two years before he got his chance to fight for the title. He won the World Boxing Council championship in 1993, but lost it two years later after a severe beating from Alejandro Gonzales, of Mexico. Kelley retired after that, came back six months later. but has never recaptured his old form.

elley came to England recently to see Hamed defend his World Boxing Organisation title against José Badilio and said all the right things in order to secure this contest — but now things have gone sour. "Hamed is not a pioneer," he said. "He has learnt showmanship from Muhammad Ali, but Ali did it with a smile. Hamed does it arrogantly. Guys in my neighbourhood keep telling me to beat his butt.

"My aunt, who is really a religious lady and doesn't speak bad about anybody, called me the other day and said: 'Kevin, I saw those commercials and he's so arrogant and so nasty. that's not God-like. You need to give

TELEVISION CHOICE

Treating chronic fatigue

Channel 4, 8.00pm

The series on complementary medicine concludes by looking at what it can do for one of the more contentious diseases, chronic fatigue syndrome also known as ME. Although dismissed in some quarters as yuppie flu, this programme at least is prepared to take it seriously and nobody would suggest that Roy Haggerty is fibbing when he talks of a miserable three years of broken nights, biurred vision and debilitating lack of energy. His GP. Dr Peter May, is sceptical about alternative treatments but prepared to let Dr Julian Kanyon, who believes in them, take Haggerty under his wing. There is no instant miracle. May accuses Kenyon of "pulling wacky ideas out of the blue" and remains unimpressed. But there is evidence to suggest that alternative methods may succeed where conventional ones have failed.

Was It Good For You? Channel 5, 8.00pm

The holiday programme visits Mexico in the company of three groups of Britons doing very different things. For Rachel, Christine and Ellean, nurses and a physio from a London hospital who have been backpacking for three months, Mexico is a chance to unwind and do nothing very much. Jon and Nick, friends from Leeds, give up their usual holiday pursuits of birds and booze in favour of scuba diving, while the Allingtons and their two sons take a coach tour in search of local culture. The series has more than a whiff of Channel 4's The series has more than a whiff of Channel 4's Real Holiday Show, except that it goes to one place at a time and sends the presenters along too. Indeed, what with camera crews tracking every move, and chirpy liftle Allsa Greenbalgh popping up in the middle of everything, you worder what sort of a holiday these people are having.

Dover ITV, 8.30pm

The Channel port documentary has been short on high drama and unlike *Holiday Reps* it does not have regular characters to sustain the interest. One gathers, too, that legal constraints may have consored the more dramatic triumphs of HM Customs. The sniffer dogs have usually sniffed in

RADIO CHOICE

Thursday Afternoon Play: Clever As Paint Radio 4, 2.00pm

Readers who can spend time near a radio on weekday afternoons know of riches others can only dream about, and this slot on Thursdays often provides proof. Clever as Paint is a clever title for a play about the Pre-Raphaelites, the leading lights of the art world in mid-Victorian London. Kim Morrissey's dramatisation is set at Christmas and focuses on three of the most famous of the movement's figures: Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Lizzie Siddal and William Morris. The tortured relationship between these three led to the suicide of Siddal in her twenties, after years of suffering over the infidelity of her husband, Rossetti, not least with Morris's wife. The leads are played here by Imogen Stubbs, Paul Rhys and Jonathan Cake.

6.30mm Kevin Greening and Zoe Ball 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley, Includes 12.30pm Newsbest 2.00 Mark Radciffe 4.00 Dave Pearce 6.15 Newsbest 6.30 Evening Session with Steve Lamacq 8.30 Movie Update with Mark Kermode 8.40 John Peel 10.20 Mary Anne Hobbs 12.00 Blue Jern 1,00aise Clive Warren 4.00 Chris Moyles

RADIO 1

RADIO 2

6.00mm Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Water Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thrower 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 David Allan's Country Club 8.00 Paul Jones 9.00 Smokey Robinson's Soul Selection 9.30 The Russ Abbot Show 10.00 The Cornedy Ouiz 10.30 Richard Allinson 12.05am Steve Madden 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00mm The Breakfast Programme 9.00 David Meltor 12.00. Midday with Mair 2.00pm Ruscoe on Five 4.00 Nationwide with Julian Worrloker 7.00 News Extra with David McNeil 7.30. Football on the Brink 9.00 Inside Edge with Rob Bonnet snd the team 9.00 SportsAmerica with Alton Byrd 9.30 Spodshop. 19.00 News Talk 11.00 News Extra with David McNeil 12.00 am Up All Night with Filchard Dallyn 5.00 Morning Reports VIRGIN RADIO

5.00am Jeremy Clark 7.00 Chris Evens 10.00 (FM) Robin Banks (AM) Grahem Dene 1.00pm (FM) Nick-Abbet (MW) Nicky Home 4.00 Russ 'n' Jono 7.00 (FM) Paul Coyle (AM) Calmin Jones 10.00 Merk Forrest 2.00am Richard Potier

TALK RADIO

6.30am Paul Ross and Carol McGiffin 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lomaine Kally 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Daeley 7.00 Anna Raebum 9.00 James Whale 1.00am Ian Colins

Analysis: Tiger, Tiger, Burning Out? Radio 4.8.00pm

The so-called "tiger" economies of South-East Asia were trumpeted as shining examples to us all throughout the 1980s and indeed Tony Blair went east to see what could be learnt for New Labour. But these economies have suddenly hit trouble, though whether the trouble that forced South Korea to call in the IMF is a sign of worse to come remains a moot point. Analysis attempts to work out what has gone wrong, including asking why it was that economists did not see the trouble coming. The programme also looks at the strong possibility that these economies have merely suffered a cyclical downturn and could soon be on the up again, thus limiting the time available for people in the West to gloat.

Peter Barnard

Les Godley shows his respect (ITV, 8.30pm)

vain. But there is a striking sequence in this latest episode as Dover comes to a halt in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales. It is the day of the funeral and bringing a busy port to a standstill to observe a minute's silence is a big operation. Port police form a guard of honour and staff and passengers bow their heads until a cannon show signals that the minute is up. The arrival of a cruise liner, ironically called the Royal Princess, provides the other main storyline, given spice by luggage ending up in the sea.

BBC2. 9.25pm

The final programme in a hold series about ecorevisionism turns to the animal conservationism. The film reminds us that until about 30 years ago the Old Testament view that animals were there to be hunted, tamed and eaten had gone largely unchallenged. Then the conservation movement, took off and its arguments became as programment orthodoxy. The film pays tribute to the energy and persistence of conservationists' campaigns. But it does suggest that some of their darker predictions have been based on dubious evidence and that putting wildlife first has had adverse consequences for many ordinary people. Saving 5,000 Indian tigers may have been a laudable crusade, but it led to nearly one million peasants being evicted from

to nearly one million peasants being evicted from their land. Peter Waymark

ending up in the sea.

BBC2, 9.25pm

Scare Stories: Sinking the Ark

WORLD SERVICE

6,00am Newsday 6,30 Meridian Books 7,00 News 7,15 Oil the Spots Newsday 6.30 Membran Books 7.10 News 7.15-CH tyle
Shell: The Grass is Singing 7.30 Composer of the Morth 8.00
News 8.10 Pause for Thought 8.15 Performance 8.30 Ed
Stevent Show 8.30 News; News in German (648 only) 9.05
World Business Report 9.15 Sense and Sensibilities 9.30 88C
English: World Business Report Fite 9.45 Sports Roundup
10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 Discovery 11.00 Newedesk 11.30
Children in Conversation 11.45 From Our Own Constronder
12.00 News 12 Discovery Model English
13.00 This Performance 12 This Reviews Report 12.15 Bitters

13.00 News 12 Discovery Model English 12.00 News 12.05pm World Business Report 12.15 Briefr Today 12.30 Record News 12.45 Sports Roundup 1.00 Newshour 2.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Multirack X-Press

Newshour 2.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Multitrack X-Press 3.00 News; News in German (648 only) 3.05 Sports Roundup 3.15 Westway 3.30 Virtage Chart Show 4.00 News 4.15 Record News 4.30 World Today, News in German (648 only) 4.45 Britain Today 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Sports Roundup 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 Assignment; News in German (648 only) 7.00 News Summary 7.01 Outlook 7.25 Pauss for Thought 7.30 John Peel 8.00 Newshour 9.00 News 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 Britain Today 9.30 Menden Books 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 World Today 1.045 Sports Roundup 11.00 News 11.05 Outlook 11.30 John Peel 12.00 Newsdesk 12.30cm Westway 12.45 Britain Today 1.00 Newsdesk 13.30 Composer of the Month 2.00 Newsdesy 2.30 Focus on Fath 3.00 News 3.05 World Business Report 3.15 Sport 3.36 Assignment 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Europe Today 5.00 Newsdesk 5.30 Europe Today

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CLASSIC FM

6.00sm Allan Menn. Including Trumpet Allarm Call and Breakdast Baroque 9.00 Henry Ketly. Michael Barry's Classic Recipe That-etyle is roast lurkey. Plus. the Classic Maskerpiera. 1.00pm (Istener Request Hour with Jane Jones 2.00 Concerto. Xaver Scharwenka (Ptano Concerto No 4 in Firmino) 3.00 Jemie Crick 6.30 Newsnight 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven with John Bruming 8.00 Evening Concert. William Herschel (Symphony No 23), Beethoven (Plano Sonata No 14 in C starp minor), Dvořák (O Stives Moon); Holst (The Pjanets), John Williams (Theme, Star Wars) 10.00 Michael Mapoin 2.00em Concerto (r) 3.00 Mark Griffiths

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Stephane Hughes, including
Haydn (Mass in G, Missa Rorate coeli desuper);
Brahms (Violin Sonata No 3 in D minor, Op 108);
Grieg (How Fair Thou Art, Op 74-No 1); foet (Trio in C); Glinka (Overture Ruslan and Luchnilla)
9.00 Morning Collection, with Peter Hobdey: Dvorák (Serenade in D minor); Josquin (Benedicta Es, Celorum Regina); Britten (Variations on a Theme of Frank Bridge)
10.00 Musical Encounters, Neruda (Trumpet Concerto in E Ital); Beathoven (Fidelio, excepts); Haydin (Symphory No 96 in D, Miradel); Ravel (Gaspard De La Nuti); Niles (Black is the Colour); Levinson (Five Fires); Shostatovich (Festival Overture); Beethoven (Fidelio, excepts)
12.00 Composer of the Weelc Prokofley

Beethoven (Fidelio, excerpts)

12.00 Composer of the Weelc Prokoflev

1.00pm The Operatic Year, Hugh Canning, Andrew
Clements and Michael Oliver consider recordings
conducted by Marc Mintowski. With Annick
Massis in the principal soprano role: Boiledieu's
La Dame Stanche and Rossini's L'Ingarno Felice.
Plus Bethi's La Somaributs, conducted by
Atherto Zadda

Plus Bellini's Le Sonnambute, conducted by
Alberto Zedda
The BBC Orchestres. BBC Symphony Orchestre.
Wagner (Overture Die Meistersinger), under
Andrew Davis, Hindernith (Symphonic
Metamorphoses), under Gunther Herbig. Prokofise
(Piano Concerto No 3); Shostakovich (Symphony
No 5), under Andrew Davis, with John Lill, piano
Ensemble, Penny Gore introduces a recital by
Lorraine McAstan, violin, and Nigel Clayton, piano,
Suk (Four Piaces); Seint-Seéns (Violin Sonata No

1 in D minor) (r)
5 Music Mechine. Tommy Pearson discovers the ways in which belts feature in music and outlitre

ways in which bells feature in music and culture around the world.

5.00 In Turne, with Sean Rafferty.

7.00 Performance on 3: Machath. A new production by Graham Vick of Verdi's operatic version of Shekespeare's play; to a libretto by Francesco Maria Plave. With Renato Bruson, baritone, Maria Guleghina, soprano, Roberto Alagna, tenor, Chorus and Orchestra of the Teetro alia Scala under Riccardo Muti. Acts 1 and 2 8.20 Directing Verdi. Deniel Snowman considers the changing styles of Verdi production 8.40 Macbeth, Acts 3 and 4

and 4

10.25 Spanish Love Songs. Robert Schumann's Spanische Liebesteder, Intermingting songs for vocal quartet performed by Eiddwen Hanthy, soprano, Janet Baker, mazzo, Dale Lawrence, tenor, Thomas Allen, baritone, Geoffrey Parsonand Christopher Middleton, planos

10.45 Night Wartes, Live from New York: Hamphall work draws on the subcultural codes of American life. Plus Humphrey Carpenter and guests discuss. Robert Rauschenberg's retrospective at the Guggerheim Museum

 Composer of the Week: Goehr (r)
 Dam Jazz Notes, with Digby Fairweather. In
 the second part of the Pietcher Henderson retrospective 1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod

5.55em (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing
8.10 Farming Today 8.25 Prayer for the Day 8.30
Today 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.58 Weather
9.00 News 9.05 The Moral Maze. Michael Buck
chairs Investigations into the moral questions
behind the week's news
10.00 (FM) News, Radio Times Past. A light-hearted
look at popular broadcasting, drawing on the BBC
sound archives. Written by Mike Barfield (f)
10.00 (LW) Delity Service

look at popular broadcasting, drawing on the BBC sound archives. Whiten by Niike Barfield (f) 10.00 (LW) Daity Service 10.15 (LW) On This Day, with Geoffrey Wheeler 10.30 Woman's Hour. Introduced by Jenni Murray 11.30 From Our Own Correspondent. Dispatches from BBC reporters around the world 12.00 News; You and Yours, with Mark Whittaker 12.25pm Foul Play. A new series in which guests attempt to solve a crime. With Stron Brett, Antonia Fraser and Anthony Price 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke 1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News; Thursday Afternoon Play: Clever as Paint, by Kim Monissey. See Choice 3.00 News, Afternoon Shift, with Daire Brehan 4.00 News 4.05 Kalaiddoacope. Paul Allen sees Jenny Aguiter and lan McKellen in the National Theatre's Peter Pan as it begins at the Oliver auditorium. Pus a review of a new production of The Government Inspector at the Almeida Theatre in London 4.45 Story The Story of the Government Inspector at the Armeida Theatre in London

Covernment inspector at the Almeida Theatre
London
4.45 Short Story: The Story of the Gobilins Who
Stole a Sendon, by Charles Dickens, read by
Clive Francis

5.00 PM, with Charlie Lee-Potter and Chris Lowe 5.50. Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather 6.00 Stx O'Clock News 6.30 Smooth Tallers. A new series of the panel game of improvisational wit and deceit 7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 Sors and Mothers. Nick Baker explores the relationship between feminist mothers and their sons (f)

sons (r)
8.00 Analysis: Tiger, Tiger, Burning Out? See
Choice

Choice

8.45 Letter from Scotland, Alan Taylor considers the effects of devolution on the Scotlish people 9.00 Does He Take Suigar? With Frederick Dove.

9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) 9.59 Weather

10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig

10.45 Book at Bedtline: Special Terms, by Ronald Frame. A tale set in 1950s Edinburgh (1/2)

71.00 Ray Bradbury's Tales of the Sizarre: And So

Frame. A tale set in 1950s Edinburgh (1/2)
11.00 Ray Bradbury's Tales of the Sizarre: And So Died Risbouchtriste. The late of a strange relationship between a ventrioculat and his dol. With Liern Brennen, Vari Sylvester and John Ramane risks.

NWILLEM Bremen, Van Sylvester and Jorn Ramage (5/6)

11.30 (FM) Utopia and Other Destinations. The historian and journalist Paul Johnson shares bis vision of an ideal world with Michael O'Donnell, 1935 M.

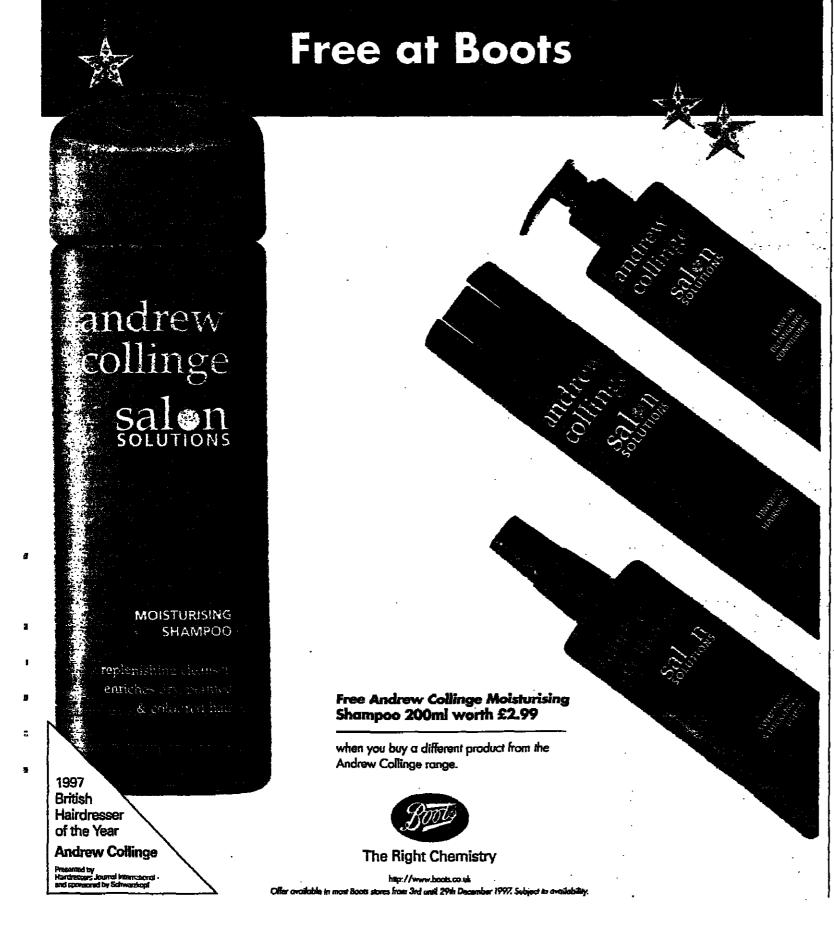
vision of an idea world with the Conversations

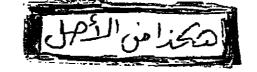
12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book Conversations with My Agent. Written by Rob Long, read by Rob Morrow (4/5)

12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

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FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55en) CLASSIC FM 100-102. WIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215, TALK RADIO, MW 1053, 1089. Gregory and John McNamara.





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• For further listings see Saturday's Vision

6.00am Morning Glory (911505) 9.00 Hotel (72470) 10.00 Another World (64876) 11.00 Days of Our Lives (44012) 12.00 Oprah Worldgy (27760) 1.00pm Geratio (45705) 200 Certs Lang Department (45776) 3.00 Wirting (27760) 1.00pm Geraldo (43708) 2.00 Safty Jessy Roptical (40708) 3.00 John Johns 1000 34003 14.00 Oprah Winting (2741) 5.00 Star Tiek, Voyager (4963) 6.00 The Live 6 Show (7925) 6.30 Mannet, with Orlidern (1505) 7.00 The Simpsons (5692) 7.30 Reel TV (7759) 6.00 Suddenly Susan (1012) 8.30 The Narmy (2037) 9.00 Senfeld (28925) 9.30 Mad About You (35789) 10.00 I ER (85945) 14 nn Star Tiek, Vowader ER (85945) 11,00 Star Tiek Vovager (85505) 12,00 Late Show with David Letterman (55600; 1,00am in the 16000) The Night (95345) 2.00 Long Play (6002838) SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie charmet Each I'm costs C2.99 per viewing SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 25) The Glimmer Man (1995) SIY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60) SMY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transp BO + OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58) The Long Kiss Goodnight (1996)

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 1 (1995) (34171031) 7.45 Lienheart: The Children's Crussde (1987) (5762234) 9.30 An American Christmass Carol (1979) (5795554) 11.15 A Little Princess (1995) (94565234) 1.00pm The Buddy System (1989) (19012) 3.00 Agains Christie's Sperking Cyentide (1983) (3133) 5.00 Lienheart: The Children's Children's (1987) 99944 7.00 A Little Princess (1987) 99944 7.00 A Little Princess (1988) 61763 9.00 Die Hard with a Vengennes (1985) 710375 11.00 PTROCES (1985) '61769 9.00 Une restabilità e Vengencia (1985) '70376 11.00
Street Flyster (1994) (110050) 12.50em
In the Name of Lover A Texas Tragedy
(1965) (12915) 225 Prot-Porter
(1964) (12915) 235 Ageits Christie's
Sparting Cyanido (1963) (7531074)

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 2 8.00sm Webs Up and Dream (1946) (8548) 8.00 The Three Worlds of Gdilleer (1958) (22302) 10.00 Time Warrior; Egga from 70 Million BC (1995)

sumed that "hardcore Prommer" was a service queue. "Some bugger tried to overtake me!" said Sue Brady, you might read about in a Soho telephone kiosk until you saw last snorting like an angry bull. night's Modern Times (BBC2). It

You don't know Sue? Oh, you must meet her. "Like many regular season-ticket holders," said the narrator, inserting the first of many blades, all as deftly as a matador, "Sue Brady is retired and unmarried. She's the uncrowned queen of the Proms, with an entourage to prove it. They're known as the Brady Bunch." Sue even holds her birthday

intend to. When Sartre wrote party in the queue champagne. about existential engagement, it's cake, the lot. Sue recently went hard to imagine he ever thought it caravanning in Belgium with Tim. whom she met in the queue ten years ago. John Underwood, who And you can forget all about music soothing a savage breast. If puts together a Prommers' orchesthese music-lovers are anything to go by, it can make you a lot more tra and who spends 12 hours in the queue every day, met Susie in the savage. These are people who queue last year. They have been a might be conscientious objectors in couple ever since. We saw them exchange rings as fellow queuers a war against Hitler, but will roll

up their sleeves and spit on their palms if anyone tries to jump the queue. "Some bugger tried to finished her studies. Face it: if you find another human being who also enjoys queueing for 12 hours a day just to secure a particular spot in the arena rather than another spot which may be only two yards away, then that's not the sort of compatability you toss aside lightly. Or, as John put it. The problem with the Proms is actually going to all these concerts. If we didn't have to go to all these concerts, the season would be wonderful." Then he tucked into a chicken leg off the barbecue.

> id I mention the barbecues? Oh yes, there's full in-queue catering. Sau-sages, grilled sandines, squeeze of lemon, salads, wine glasses, claret, espresso brewed on Calor-Gaz burners. The hot dog stands that lurk in the shadow of the Albert Memorial don't get much custom



The end of the queue is forming a queue



Joe Joseph

هكذامن ولإمل

from the Brady Bunch. For the sake of accuracy, we should mention that John isn't actually included yet in the Brady Bunch barbecues. He's still a bit "nouveau" for the ancien régime. having been a 12-hours-a-day queuer for only four years. Not enough pedigree, frankly.

Of course, Helen Richards's film was all hugely entertaining: in the uncomfortable way that visiting

Bediam must have been entertaining. We laughed at the inmates, shook our heads at their inanities. and they never once twigged we were here to mock. To them, what they do is normal behaviour.

We, who happen not to be "retired and unmarried", who cannot imagine having either the time or the desire to spend 12 hours a day queueing, gaze on these people with the pity we might feel for those who measure out their lives in coffee spoons. There but for the grace of God, etc. I felt rather shabby and slightly guilty by the end of it, as if I'd just opened and

read someone else's personal mail. But at least Richards didn't have to hump her cameras from one end of the world to the other as Mike Richards (any relation?) had to do for last night's Wildlife Special (BBCI) on the eagle. Eagles are everywhere, but my vote goes to the golden eagles which survive in the mountains of Greece by scooping up tortoises in their claws like Lives: JFK (Channel 4). "There are bowling balls, and then dropping them like bombs to crack open their shell. Maybe that tall story about Aeschylus dying as a result of a tortoise falling on his head isn't pure fable after all.

Yet, for a bird of prey, the eagle turned out to be quite placid. One mother in Africa returned to its nest to find that her three-day-old chick, feeling peckish, had started to eat its freshly-born sibling. She didn't even scold the child. Queueiumping Prommers have probably been castrated for less,

s usual, it all took David Attenborough's breath Anenomough pered sweetly. "have captured the human imagination quite so pow-erfully as the eagle." Well, David obviously never met that bird Marilyn Monroe.

John F. Kennedy, of course, did, as we heard yet again in Secret

CHANNEL 4

5.55am Sesame Street (35437)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (30895)

9.00 Something So Right (46383)

Haver and Dan Dailey A musical romance directed by Richard Sale (80267906) 9.30 The Girl Next Door (1953) with June

11.05 Season's Greetings followed by What's Going On Frank? (8649944)

11.30 Powerhouse (T) (8128) 12.00 Sesame Street (66147) 12.30pm Light Lunch (r)

Robert Parrish (T) (51495692)

6.00 Boy Meets World (T) (860166)

6,30 Hollyoaks Teen scap (T) (895)

7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (608944)

7.50 Schubert Shorts Christopher Maltman

erty (8.00pm)

Natural Born Healers Roy Haggerty embarks on a

course of integration to help to combe

chronic fatioue syndrome, from which he

Hafner samples African American cuisine

the late 1950s and early 1960s may be

Buddy A comedy drama about the

relationship a schoolboy has with the

has suffered for three years (T) (9876)

8.30 United Tastes of America Darinda

9.00 Dispatches Investigation into whether children and young adults who were given contaminated polio vaccinations in

facing a cancer legacy (T) (691050)

9.45 Lloyds Bank Film Challenge: My Dead

in Georgia (8/8) (T) (8383)

performs Der Strom (659692)

6.25 Fresh Pop (746147)

3.20 Collectors' Lot Former Tory MP Gyles

western about gun-running and romance on the Tex-Mex border. Directed by

Brandreth's collection of teddy bears (T) (5822470) 3.50 Fifteen-to-One (T)

(6927925) 4.30 Countdown (T) (2455499)

4.55 Ricki Lake: Michael Bolton (T (5834925) 5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (302)

two Jack Kennedys," said G. Robert Blakey, chief counsel of the House Assassinations Committee. There was the good Jack Kennedy, who was young, was articulate, who talked about peace, talked about racial justice ... the one every body knew. And there's a bad Jack Kennedy. And the bad Jack Kennedy was a very reckless man." Which we knew, too. We knew about the hookers, his affair with Monroe, his corrupt father, his links with the Malia, his amphetamine habit, everything. But it was watchable all the same, like a favourite old movie you chance upon late at night.

It was that seraphic smile, of course, that saved Kennedy. And now we know how he kept it. In London, they say, such is the rodent infestation that you're never more than ten yards away from a rai. JFK was never more than ten minutes away from an orgasm.

6.00am Business Breakfast (19499) 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (14857) 9.00 Good Living (1029050)

BEC:

was about the fervent posse of men

and women who make the annual

Promenade Concerts the pivot on

which the rest of their lives tilts.

It is not the concerts, exactly,

that grip them. It's the queueing

for specific positions in the arena

of the Albert Hall, positions they

have always had. And always

might mean the Prom queue.

Often quite precariously,

9.25 Style Challenge The experts treat pantomime stars Widow Twanky and Aladdin to a makeover (1015857) 9.50 Kilroy (T) (2753147) 10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (1523012)

10.55 The Really Useful Show (8522586) 11,35 Change That (3748437) 12.00 News (T) and weather (9262944) 12.05pm Call My Bluff (2473437) 12.35 Give Us A Clue (5146925) 1.00 News (T) and weather (17944)

1.30 Regional News (17215166) 1.40 The Weather Show (86119925) 1.45 Neighbours (T) (89386960) 2.10 Petrocelli (r) (1817470) 3.00 Vets in Practice (r) (T) (5437)

3.30 Pingu (8033215) 3.35 Playdays (7571505) 3.55 The Silver Brumby (7575321) 4.20 Mr Wymi (7596418) 4.35 Smart. The National Portrait Competition; how to bring a mechanical character to life. Last in series (2454760) 5.00 Newsround (T) (4781875) 5.10 Aquila (T) (6161383)

5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (845321) 6.00 News (T) and weather (505) 6.30 Regional News (657) 7.00 Watchdog with Anne Robinson (I)

7.30 EastEnders Cindy laces a showdown; Mark plans a trip out with Jessie (T) (741) 8.00 Animal Hospital Harmsworth's Chief Vet, David Grant, talks to Rolf Harris about his 30-year career dedicated to helping sick and injured animals and the despair he often feels when faced with cruelty cases (T) (6166)

8.30 Holiday Reps The season draws to a close along with Caroline's relationship, but others have better news. Last in

terers (T) and we 9.30 The Thin Blue Line: Yuletide Spirit Grim tracks down some criminal carol singers, and Fowler falls victim to the ruthless Gaslorth Amateur Dramatic

Society (r) (T) (80215) 10.00 They Think It's All Over Olympic athlete Iwan Thomas and comedian Jeff Green join regulars David Gower, Gary Lineker, Phil Jupitus and Rory McGrath and

chairman Nick Hancock (74166) 10.30 Clive Anderson All Talk With Andie MacDowell and Harry Enfield (T) (50586) 11.00 Question Time David Dimbleby's guests are Baroness Shirley Williams, Gern Greer and the MPs Chris Smith and

Michael Heseltine (T) (804499) 12.05am Jalibirds (1991) Comedy adventure, starring Dyan Cannon, Phylicia Rashad and Dakin Matthews. Two women from vasily different backgrounds become close triends during a spell behind bars. Handcuffed together, they manage to escape from the clutches of the law. Directed by Burt Brinckerhoff (T)

1.35 Weather (7162093)

1,40 BBC News 24 oPlus+ and the Video PlusCoder VideoPlus+ and the video Priscottes
The numbers next to each TV programme
listing are Video PlusCode "numbers, which
allow you to programme your video recorder
instantly with a VideoPlus+" handset. Tap in
the Video PlusCode for the programme you
wish to record. Videoplus+ ("), Pluscode (")
and Video Programmer are trademarks of
Gemster Development Ltd. 6.00am Science: Cosmology on Trial (63708) 6.30 Food — Whose Choice is it Ånyway? (85857) 7.00 See Hear Breakfast News (T and

8802

signing) (3048234) 7.15 Teletubbles (r) (2235234) 7.40 Yakky Duck (r) (8895895) 8.05 Blue Peter (r) (T) (6880012) 8.30 Mouse and Mole (r) (2860215) 8.35 Johnson and Friends (r) (9893383) 8.45 The Record (6846352) 9.10 The Fugitive (r) (T) (1695234) 10.00 Teletubbies (29627)

10.30 Make Mine Mink (1960) Star-studded comedy with Teny-Thomas, Billie Whitelaw and Kenneth Williams. Directed by Robert Asher (85757055)

12.10pm Birds with Tony Soper (8865673)
12.30 Working Lunch (91321) 1.00
Joshua Jones (r) (50310654) 1.10
Hammer it Home (73470741) 1.30 A
River Somewhere: Fly fishing on the
Chamberlain River in Western Australia
(90692) 2.00 Teles a Meal Alessa (90692) 2.00 Take a Meai: Asace (92552050) 2.15 Going, Going, Gone (45955895) 2.40 News (1) 2.45 Westminster (1) (5768031) 3.25 News (1) 3.30 The Village (r) Last in series (963) 4.00 Ready, Steaky, Cook (470) 4.30
Through the Keyhole (2453031) 4.55
Esther: Teenage mothers (5849857) 5.30
Today's the Day (234)

6.00 Sitent Running (1971) Ecological sci-fi lable with Bruce Dem. Directed by Douglas Trumbull (1) (64437)

7.30 First Sight: Home Alone Former homeless people reveal how securing a roof over their head does not necessarily unlock the door to a happier life (1) (383) WALES: Decisive Weapons EAST: Matter of Fact MIDLANDS: Midlands Report NORTH/NORTH EAST/NORTH WEST/ SOUTH WEST/WEST: Close Up SOUTH: Southern Eye

8.00 Decisive Weapons: The Queen of Tanks — the Russian T34 (r) (T) (4708) WALES: Roy Noble on Common Ground 8.30 Top Gear Jeremy Clarkson, Tiff Needell and Quentin Wilson pick the best cars of



The Solomon family (9.00pm)

9.00 Third Rock from the Sun The Solomons learn the true meaning of Christmas (T)

(619532)Scare Stories Animal rights campaigns in the 1960s. Last in series (1) (676741) 10.15 Expanding Pictures (461505)

10.30 Newsplobt (1) (190963) 11.15 Late Review (418031) 11.55 Skiling Forecast (955302) 12.00 The Midnight Hour (83884)

12.30em Learning Zone: Eve Arnold (8893451) 12.35 20th Century Women (8228364) 1.30 Working Mothers (53258) 2.00 Movie Making (23277) 4.00 Teaching Film and Media (22432) 5.00 Teacher Training (27093)

HTV 6.00am GMTV (2521708)

9.25 Supermarket Sweep (T) (1024505) 9.55 Regional News (1) (7877147) 10.00 The Time, the Place (96963) 10.30 This Morning (T) (97369437) 12.20pm Regional News (T) (9276147) 12.30 ITN News (T) and weather (5165050)

12.55 Shortland Street (5140741) 1.25 Home and Away (T) (73486302) 1.50 Quisine (T) (76231091) 2.20 Countdown to Christmas Last in the series (T) (45930586) 2.50 Vanessa (4887437)

3.20 News (T) (6113055) 3.25 Regional News (T) (7563596) 3.30 Potemus Park (2909505) 3,40

6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (673)

6.30 Regional News (925)

Wizadora's Christmas Carol (8048147) 3.50 Scooby Doo (1556128) 4.20 it's a Tiny Toon Christmas (7505166) 4.40 Out of Sight (1746532) 5.10 A Country Practice (9134321) 5.40 News (T) and weather (471429)

7.00 Emmerdate Kim's harasser gets more persistent. Doug has disappointing news for Kathy (T) (2586) 7.30 WALES: Wales This Week (437)



Dermot Murnaghan (7.30pm)

7.30 The Big Story Current affairs Dermot Mumaghan (437) 8.00 The Bill: Humpty Dumpty All the evidence points to Jimmy's father killing Bannerman and pushing his son off the roof (3/3) (T) (1234)

8.30 Dover Behind the scenes at the Kent port. The port shows its respect on the day of the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales (T) (8881) Oxford, who is lighting, unarmed, to save

9.00 Thief Takers The team race to the aid of some Japanese witnesses (T) (9963) 10.00 News at Ten (T) and weather (69234) 10.30 Regional News (T) (581321) 10.40 Cocktail (1988) with Tom Cruise and

Brvan Brown, A college dropout begins on the road to fortune by working in an upmarket Manhattan bar where he learns up with a flashy barman. Directed by Roger Donaldson (83196215) 12.35am WALES: The Big Story (3312906)

12.35am Tales from the Crypt (3312906) 1.05 The LADS (1) (8700797) 1.35 Funny Business (5765722)

2.05 The Loop (r) (8752635) 2.35 Late and Loud (r) (5338109) 3.30 The Good Sex Guide Late (r) (6406529)

4,25 Sound Bites (24849548) 4.35 The Time, the Place (r) (79883884) 5.00 The Making of a Life Less Ordinary (11242) 5.30 News (84567)

As HTV West except:

12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (5140741) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (9134321) 6.25 Central News (847215) 6.55-7.00 Lifeline (793215) 12.35am Cool Vibes (8896548) 12.40 Funny Business (3311277) 1.10 Planet Mirth (8709068)

1.40 Rockmania (6129906) 2.40 Central Jobfinder '97 (12891567) 5.20 Aslan Eye (4362345)

WESTCOUNTRY

CENTRAL

As HTV West except: 12.20pm-12.30 illuminations (9268128) 12.55 Home and Away (7259031) 1.20-1.50 Emmerdale (64389924) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (9134321) 5.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (82186) 12.35am Campus Cops (3312906)

MERIDIAN As HTV West except: 1.50pm-2.20 The (76231091)

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (9134321) 6.00 Meridian Tonight (673) 6.30-7.00 Rural Rides (925) 12.35am Weekly World News (3312906) 5.00 Freescreen (11242)

ANGLIA As HTV West except: 12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (9270963) 12.55-1.25 What's My Line? (5140741) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (9134321)

6.23 Anglia Weather (749234) 6.25 Anglia News (847215) 6.55-7.00 What's On (793215) 10,29 Anglia Air Watch (997505) 12.35am Short Story Cinema (3312906)

SAC Starts: 7.00 The Big Breakfast (30895) 9.00 Something So Right (46383) 9.30 Film: The Girl Next Door (1953) A

musical romance starring June Have and Dan Dailey (80267906) 11.05 Season's Greetings (8649944) 11.30 Powerhouse (8128) 12.00 Sesame Street (66147) 12.30pm Ricki Lake (93789) 1.00 Stot Melthrin (50329302)

1.15 Wil Cwac Cwac (50324857) 1.30 Gardens without Borders (17299128) 1.45 Film: Crooks Anonymous (88110654) 3.20 Collectors' Lot (5822470)

3.50 Fifteen-to-One (6927925) 4.30 Movers and Shakers (550) 5.00 5 Pump (3692) 5.30 Countdown (302)

6,00 Newyddion (202128) 6,10 Heno (695050) 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (950673)

7.25 Penbhydd Hapus (232050) 8.00 Os Byw Ac tach (9976) 8.30 Newyddion (8383) 9.00 Hellwr (97922483) 10.50 Secret Live (58231499)

12.25am Dispatches (1097277)

1.15 Lloyds Bank Film Challenge (4505616)

1.30-2.00 Natural Born Healers (75426)

ghost of his best friend (6/6) (T) (401963) 10.00 This Boy's Story in the late 1960s, two young brothers from a broken home go in search of their footballing hero — George

Best (r) (2752091) 11,05 Babylon 5 (T) (605470) 12.00-2.35am The Shooting Gallery: Is it the Design on the Wrapper? (9866600) 12.05 The Sunny Side of the Street (1951646) 12.20 Pride (1157249) 12.35 Scary Movies (6301890) 12.55 The Gir and the Almond (6429180) 1.15 The Sheep Thief (4490364) 1.40 Week in Week Out (2018797) 2.00 Fatima (4072703) 2.20 Flying Over Mother

2.35 Springhill (5317616) 3.35 Glasgow Kiss (9317249) 4.35 EZ Street (6431722) 5.25 Schools: Science in Focus (3626513)

CHANNEL 5

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE
Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are picture: 10.92075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz

6.00am 5 News Early (4229895)

(6101505)
1.35 The Wonderful Country (1959) with Robert Mitchum and Julie London A western about our proping and 7.30 Milkshakel (7509654) 7.35 Adventures of the Bush Patrol (r) (9191147) 8.00 Havakazoo (r) (7506401) 8.30 WideWorld: Fragile Planet The flora and fauna whose lives involve being submerged under water for several hours

a day (5/10) (8956942) 9.00 Espresso Consumer affairs magazine (7063147) 10.00 Exclusive (r) (4428586) 10.30 Instant Gardens (r) (4556186)

11.00 Leeza (3347708) 11.50 Double Espresso (90903079) 12.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (T) (8046398) 12.30pm Family Affairs (r) (T) (1529944)

1.00 5 News 1.05 Sunsel Beach (T) (4112166) 2.00 5's Company (3317944) 3.30 At the Midnight Hour (1995) starring

Patsy kensit and Simon MacCorkindale. A drama about a nanny trying to unite a troubled child with his widowed lether by unravelling the mystery surrounding the mother's death. Directed by Charles Jarrott (9509760) 5.20 5's Company: Late Extra (56866741)

5.30 Whittle (1) (4785708) 6.00 100 Per Cent (4775321) 6.30 Family Affairs Liam and Charlotte have a

lucky escape (T) (4766673) 7.00 Exclusive (5134586) 7.30 Empire of the Elephant Hippos, which

spend 18 hours a day submerged in mud (3/7) (T) (4762857) 8.00 Was it Good for You? Three different holidays in Mexico.

an all-inclusive trip in Cancun, a budget break on Isla Mugeras, an island off Cancun; and a combined sightseeing (5143234)

8.30 5 News (T) (5122741)



Bruce Willis stars (9.00pm)

9.00 Blind Date (1987) starring Kim Basinger and Bruce Willis, A comedy about a workaholic who invites a beautiful Southern belle with a low alcohol

tolerance level to an important corporate celebration. Directed by Blake Edwards

10.50 The Jack Docherty Show Chat and comedy (1680234) 11.35 Live and Dangerous Sports magazine

4.35am The Streets of San Francisco Police drama series (T) (5854109) 5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (7948884)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

17383) 12,00 The Man from Colorado (1948) (12925) 2,00pm The Englishman Who Went Up = Hill, But Came Down a Mountein (1995) (37168) 4,00 The Three Worlds of Guffler (1969) (7427) 8,00 A Different Kind of Christmas (1996) (58651018) 8,00 Missed Nuts (1994) (79147) 10,00 Blood Money (1995) (671944) 11,35 Aniasal Instincts Bit The Saductress (1995) (513741) 1. The Saductress (1995) (141587) 2,60 Ordinary Heroes (1986) (431548) 4,25 The Old Curlosity Shop (1984) (553964) SKY SPORTS 3 SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm The Rezor's Edge (1948) (3305741) 6.30 Duel (1971) (408505) 8.00 ET: The Extra-Terractival (1982) (4968215) 10.00 Fright Night (1985) (9279128) 11.50 The Fortune (1975) (9954296) (120em Out of the Durkness (1985) (6235703) 2.55 Duel (1971) 60373906) 4.25 Close

9.00pm Miracle in the Wilderness (1991) (56655786) 11.00 Forgotten Prisoners The Armesty Files (1990) (76629708) 1.10em The Adverdures of Robin Hood (1838) (14982513) 3.00 Children of the Darmed (1984) (60799068) 5.00 Close SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre (94031) 7.30 Wres-ting (46050) 8.30 Sports Centre (14321) 9.00 Racing News (55483) 8.30 Aerobics (41663) 10.00 Footbal (38499) 12.00 Aerobics (25437) 12.30pm Big Fight Countdown (52079) 1.00 Ice Wars (26573) 2.30 Futbal Mundiel (4470) 8.00 Porsiche Sing Clin (98703 4.00 Sports Unlimited 2.30 Futbol Munclei (4470) 3.00 Forsche Super Cup (98708) 4.00 Sports Universel (77215) 5.00 Wreeting (9437) 6.00 Sports Cettre (2499) 6.30 Big Fight Countdown (6079) 7.00 Pool: Mosconi Cup — Live (759692) 10.00 Sports Cettre (26166) 10.30 Big Fight Countdown (15906) 11.30 Nrt. (10.00 Big Fight Countdown (73944) 11.30 Nrt. Cettre (61600) 12.30 mz The Rugby Cub (75180) 2.00 Trans World Sport (72249) 3.00 Sports Centre (91513) 3.30 Close

SKY SPORTS 2 7,00sm Aerobics (9682050) 7,30 Sports Centre (9658957) 8,00 Raeng News (5484012) 8,30 Fish TV (4748189) 9,30 Fio Beach Souser (2310499) 10,30 Squash (1519673) 11,30 Pool (3281302) 2,30pm Belgrade Raco Through History (6578708)

3.00 Football (479895) 5.00 Futbol Munder (2055383) 5.30 Football Lesque Review (6847296) 6.00 Powerboat and Jessid World (6677437) 8.20 World of Selling (668789) 7.00 Sports Centre (2075147) 7.30 The Rugby Cube (4102272) 9.00 Trens World Sport (2578995) 10.00 Powerboat and Jetski World (5495128) 10.30 Iron Woman: Devondale (5404875) 11.00 World of Sailing (4076645) 11.30 Tight Lines (4789147) 12.30em Rebel Sports (8843180) 1.30 Sports Centre (4744074) 2.00 Close

12.00pm Wrestling (81311708) 1.00 Fish TV (81397128) 2.00 Sportrats (46932429) TV (81397128) 2.00 Sportrass (4963247) 2.30 The Golden Age of Motor Recing (65627963) 3.30 Sport USA (12799586) 5.00 Windsuring (28902609) 5.30 Squash (24475944) 8.30 Football Langue Review (28643976) 7.00 Tight Lines (56638012) 8.00 Spanish Primera Liga (56638012) 10.00 Boloby Charlton's Football Scrap-ters (19747444) 11.30 Close **EUROSPORT**

7.30em Showjumping (48415) 8.30 WPG Season Review (81857) 9.30 Blatition (64166) 11.00 Nordic Combined Stang (84654) 12.06 Snowboarding (89657) 2.00pm Football (82031) 3.30 Motors (79963) 4.30 World Supercriss (82565) (7963) 4.30 World Supercrass (82585) 8.30 Football (37302) 7.30 Powerhing (98825) 8.00 Aerobics (78463) 8.00 Showiumping Cympa infernational Chemponships—Live (68206) 10.30 World Cup Legends (85050) 11.30 Motorcycling (83147) 12.30am Close UK GOLD

7.00am Bullseys (4399031) 7.35 Neighbours (4182296) 8.00 Crossnoads (2257505) 8.26 EastEnders (6867470) 8.00 The Ball (6003128) 9.30 Howards: Way (6309470) 10.00 Blass This House (1474031) 10.30 The Sullwars (602012) 11.00 Boon (8038418) 12.00 Crossnoads (6188650) 12.26pm Neighbours (68188650) 12.26pm Neighbours 11.00 Boon (81.9816) 12.00 Crossrosias (46183963) 12.25 EastEnders (2017760) 1.30 N-De-H (4219079) 2.10 No Piace Like Horne (657:231) 2.50 Last of the Summer Wine (9349012) 3.30 The 98 (3875975) 4.00 Juliel Bravo (38807673) 5.05 East-4.00 June 1996 | 5640 Bob's Full House (4159437) 8.25 Thai's Shoebusiness (8387532) 7.00 Last of the Summer Wine (6286673) 7.40 No Place Life Home (6835825) 8.20 Cazen Smith (2748019) 9.00 The Bill (1898925) 9.00 Stark



(66269673) 10.40 Blacksoder N (5555892) 11.20 The Jack Dee Show (301/585) 11.55 Three of a Kind (9763857) 12.30mm FILM: Wild Flower (1991) (6315187) 2.05 Marm Vice (3735703) 2.55 Shopping (44555428) GRANADA PLUS

6.00em The Box (8006586) 7.80 Coronation St (6413741) 7.90 Families (6432876) 8.00 Blind Date (6056895) 9.00 Within These Walts (4998166) 10.00 Donahue (6418296) 11.00 Hert to Hert (6418296) 12.00 Coronation St (8861418) 12.30pm Femilies (2324673) 1.00 On the Buses (6412012) 1.30 Please Saf (2323944) 2.00 The Good Guys (7937234) 9.00 Donahue (7161876) 4.00 Misson: Impossible (7140383) 5.00 Hewaii Five-O (3925789) 4.00 Families (7281050) 6.30 Coronation St (72723027 7.00 Blind Date (1632893) 8.00 (7272302) 7.00 Blind Date (1632893) 8.00 Hart to Hart (5337401) 9.00 Coronalion St (7179895) 9.30 Hale and Pace (2344437) 10.00 Hawaii Five-O (2082334) 11.00 Close CARLTON SELECT (cable)

5.00cm Gridlock (54037893) 5.30 Hey Dad

(24332645) 8.30 Ther's Love (49182942) 9.00 Boon (56659128) 10.00 The Trace's Ulliman Show (56642215) 11.00 St Else-where (8436302) 12.00 Doctor Down Under (63632068) 12.30em Tales of the cred (54947884) 1,00 Close DISNEY CHANNEL

8.00am Under the Umbreila Tree 6.30 Rosie and Jim 8.45 Wante the Pooh 7.00 Aladde 7.30 Tex Avery 8.00 Dinosauts 8.30 Aladdor 7.30 Tex Avery 8.00 Dinosaurs 8.30 Bonkers 9.00 Gumm Bears 9.30 Chip in Dale 9.55 Small Stones 10.00 Sesame St 11.00 Winne the Pooh 11.15 Rose and Jim 11.35 Symbol By 12.00 Tots TV 12.30pm it s Fun to Learn with Spot 12.45 Winner the Pooh 1.00 Sesame St 2.00 Amazing Anmals 2.30 Gummi Bears 3.00 Tale Spin 3.30 Gool Troop 4.00 Timon and Pumbas 4.30 Aleddin 5.00 Gargoyles 5.30 Wonder Years 8.00 Files: The Christmas Tree 9.30 Home Improvement 10.00 Close FOX KIDS NETWORK

1 (28637215) 6.00 Blockbusters (28634128) 8.30 A Country Practice (28658708) 7.00 Get Back (30537037) 7.30 Relative Strang-ers (28647692) 8.00 Desmond's 8.00cm Delty 6.30 Billy the Cat 7.00 Pinoc-chio 7.30 Power Rangers Zeo 8.00 Beato-borgs 8.30 Masked Rider 9.00 Magic Box 9.30 Dudley 10.00 Inspector Gadget 10.30

Samurai Pizza Cats 11,00 Sweet Valley High 12,00 Ace Ventura 12,30pm Casper 1,00 TcA 1,30 from Man 2,00 Fentastic Four 2.30 Power Rangers Zeo 3.00 Beeflaborgs 3.30 Masked Rider 4.00 Ace Ventua 4.30 Casper 5.00 Tcb, 5.30 X Men 6.00 Spiderman 6.30 Sweet Valley High

6.00am Hepply Ever After 6.30 Bobby's World 7.00 Spriou 7.30 Dennis the Menses 8.00 Berman 8.00 Berman 9.00 Eertworm of 8.00 Romand the Rendeer 9.45 Romand the Rendeer 10.00 Oscar's Orchestra 10.30 Resh Gordon 11.00 Springer 13.00 Izagoud 11.30 Giganto 12.00 Sprou 12.30pm Sone 1.00 Belman 1.30 Al's Time Travellers 2.00 Izagoud 2.30 Pass Gordon 3.00 Sone 3.30 Earmworm Jim 4.00 Dennis the Menace 4.30 Balman

CARTOON NETWORK All your lazourne textoons broadcast from 5.00am to 9.00pm, seven days a week. NICKELODEON

Monsters 7:00 Hey Anoid 7:30 Rugets 8:00 Doug 8:30 Neverending Story 9:00 CBBC 10:00 Wimze's House 10:30 Baber 11:00 Magoc School Bus 11:30 Banasa in Pyamas 12:00 Paddington Beer etc 12:30pm Little Red Treator etc 1:00 Dr Seuss 1,30 Little See Stories 2,00 Annual Show 2,30 CBBC 3,30 Rocks/Doug 4,00 Angry Beavers 4,30 Rugrets 5,00 Sister Seter 5,30 Kenan and Kei 6,00 Submit the Teenage Wilch 6.30 Moesha 7.00 Close TROUBLE

12.00pm Swan's Crossing 12.30 Ready or Not 1.00 Madison 1.30 California Dreams 2.00 Saved by the Bell 2.30 Swan's Crossing 3.00 9-2-53.30 Ready or Not 4.00 Crossing sub-2-3 Library or hot sub-Saved by the Bell 4.30 USA High 5.00. Hangtime 5.30 Caldonia Dreams 6.00 TX Siz 6.30 Medison 7.00 Hangtime 7.30 USA CHALLENGE TV

5.00pm Cross Wes 5.30 Move on Up 5.00 Family Forlunes 6.30 Catchphrase 7.15 The 564.000 Question 8.00 Spit Second The \$54,000 Question make open comments and \$20 Karacke Chellenge 9,15 Winner Takes
All 10,00 Tressine Hum 11,15 Karacke
Challenge 12,00 Say the Word 12,30 cm

BRAVO 8.00pm The A-Team (4845383) 9.00 Tour of Duty (4865147) 10.00 The Red Shoe Dianes (5957692) 10.45 FILM: EVII Dead II

1987) 9849079) 12.45am Tour of Duy 1288529) 1.45 The Red Shoe Danes (5350161) 2.30 Fillat Evil Dead II (1987) 2801259 4.30 Family Dog (2184659) 5.00 Stensky and Hutch (4462161) PARAMOUNT COMEDY 7.00pm Grace Under Fire (8708) 7.30 Roseanne (3505) 8.00 Ellen (4128) 8.30 Cybill (6963) 9.00 Cheers (64741) 9.30 Taxu (30857) 10.00 Freser (24766) 10.30 kenny Everett (15988) 11.00 Festival of Fun (76586) 11.30 Ellen (81079) 12.00

(1900) 1.00 Scep (82818) 1.30 Taxi (1970) 1.00 Scep (82818) 1.30 Taxi (2508) 2.00 Festival of Fun (54155) 2.30 Grace Under Fire (39890) 3.00 Fraser (99155) 3.30 Kenny Everett (57242) THE SCI-FI CHANNEL 6.00am Käler Tomatoes 6.30 Asahhi Reel

8.00pm Sgirtings (3977302) 9.00 F9LM: Sleeping Dogs (1997) (3987789) 11.00 Friday the 13th (6289147) 12.00 Sgirtings (4969056) 1.00cm The Twildhi Zon Finday the 13th (9279529) 4.00 Close **HOME & LEISURE**

9.00am The Joy of Pariting 9.30 Garden Club 18.00 Garden Party 10.30 New Yankee Workshop 11.00 Hooked on Fishng 11.30 Homelme 12.00 The Dicernan 12.30pm Hammer (I Home 1.00 van Can Cook 1.30 Collectomana 2.00 Furniture on the Mend 2.30 Antiques Trail 3.00 Two's Country 3.30 Home Again 4.00 Close DISCOVERY

4.00pm Bush Tucker Man (3852925) 4.30 Flightfine (3881437) 5.00 Ancient Warriors (8009895) 5.30 Beyond 2000 (3872789) 6.00 Am HB Mob (3323147) 7.00 Myster ous World (8089031) 7.30 Disaster 005 Wolf (2009/01) 1-39 Discharge (2009/05) 9.00 Top Marques (4851321) 10.00 Tol Ship (4871708) 11.00 Medical Delegance (2017925) 12.00 Desarrar (7174371) 12.30 Wheel Nuts (7858451) 1.00 Disaster (3734398) 1.30 Revont 2000 (9777155)

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

8.00 A Natural Passion (8727857) 9.00 Cameramen Who Dated (8730301; 10.00 Arabia Sand, Sea and Sity (8740708) 11.00 Dash to the South Poly (5064128) 12.00 Stolen River (2692906) 1.00am Close TRAVEL (cable)

12.00pm East Meets West 1.00 No Truckm Holiday 1.30 On the Horzon 2.00 World-ande Guide 2.30 Flavours of France 3.00 Ocean World 3.30 innocent Abroad 4.00 Coast World 3.30 Innocent Advago 4.00
Reet World 4.30 Cn Tour 5.00 Going Places
8.00 Retway Adventures 8.30 Prendship
Dinis 7.00 Travel Live 8.00 Chies of the
World 8.30 People and Places of Africa
9.00 Swiss Railway Journeys 10.30 Flights
Over Spain 10.30 Aspects of Life 11.00
Ridge Riders 11.30 Sports Safars. THE HISTORY CHANNEL

A 60mm The Most Decorated: Elife German Forces of World Wai Two (5426185) 5,00 Modern Marveta (2074419) 6,00 Anomi Mysteries (7486895) 7,00 Biography The Queen Mother (2549383) 8.00 Close CARLTON FOOD (cable) 12.00pm Food Network Davy 12.30 French

12.00pm Pool on Thought 1.30 Treble
Lunch 1.00 Food on Thought 1.30 Treble
Chels of Christmas 2.00 Jewny Bristow
Specials 2.30 Food Networt Daily 3.00 The
Restsurent Show 3.30 Ganham Kerts
Kitchen 4,00 From the Ground Up 4.30
Christmas at Ballymaice 5.00 Close LIVING

6.00am Trny Living 9.00 Why Me² 9.30 Gordon Ellion 10.10 Jerry Springer 11.00 Young and the Resilies: 11.55 Brookside 12.25pm Jimmy's 1.00 Cheap Chie 1.30 Ready, Sleady, Cook 2.05 Hort to Hart 3.00 Live at Three 4.10 Jerry Springer 5.00 Rolends 5.50 Cheap Chie 6.20 Ready, Seady, Cook 7.00 Rescure 911 7.30 Mysteries, Magic and Mitables 8.00 Adienalin Junices 9.00 FILIIC Hollow Point 10.55 Sex Life ZEE TV

6.30em Unchyun 7.00 Jeagran 7.30 Bushess Music 8.30 Love Stones 9.00 Feng Barang 9.30 Apr Ki Farmesh 10.00 Michabet 11.00 Pol Luk 11.30 Masi Mest Har Zindeyi 12.00 Dastaen 12.30pm He Thr Hi Ha 1.00 Fill& 4.00 Top 10 5.00 B Aur Minute 5.30 in a Jitty 6.00 Hum Peanet 6.30 Hey Ha Ho 7.00 Panchayat 7,30 Cinemage 8,00 News 8,30 Andaz 9,00 Baat Ban Jaye 9,30 Hassaren 10,30 Mcn Merzi 11,00 Shotgun, Homor

BOXING 46 Hamed and an



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Spanish tests for Villa and Chelsea

United happy with royal appointment

THEY have the backing of the royal family, a team that is on the brink of a French league record for excellence and a stadium fit for kings, but when the draw for the quarterfinals of the European Cup paired Manchester United with AS Monaco yesterday. Alex Ferguson and his players breathed a collective sigh of relief that they had not been matched with any of the true aristocracy of European

As Aston Villa swallowed hard after the news that they will have to overcome Atletico Madrid to reach the semi-finals of the Uefa Cup and Chelsea stayed steadfastly ambiguous about their meeting with Real Betis, of Seville, for a place in the last four of the Cup Winners' Cup, United went as far as any sensible club is prepared to go before a crucial match: they were cautiously optimis-

Monaco are hardly likely to be whipping boys. They finished at the top of a modest group F in the Champions' eague, ahead of Sporting Lisbon, Lierse and Bayer Leverkusen, who also qualified as one of the best runners-up. Just as important, though, they lead the French -league and will equal a 13year-old record if they win-

Dynamo Kiev

Bayern Munich v

Iorussia Dortmund

AS Monaco v

their eighth successive championship game in Metz tonight. Once the domain of Arsene Wenger, now the Arsenal coach, and his star pupil, Glenn Hoddle. Monaco's fortunes dipped when Wenger left. However, under the tute-

lage of Jean Tigana, the for-mer France midfield player. they are enjoying a renaissance. Last season, they knocked Newcastle United out of the Uefa Cup, dominated the domestic scene and won the title by 12 points from their nearest challengers.

Defensively, they are sus-pect and twice during the Champions' League, they

Lama target for West Ham

WEST Ham United will wait until the full extent of the next injury to Ludek Miklosko, the oalkeeper, is known before deciding whether to pursue an interest in Bernard Lama, who has played 35 games in goal for France. Miklosko could be ruled out for three months, but West Ham, who have made Craig Forrest, the Canada international, their No I, will not be rushed into a signing, even though Lama, of Paris Saint-Germain, is desperate to find a club.

rtak Mosc

rternazionale i

Schalike 04

Lazio v

Atlětico Madrid

Aston VIIIa

You have to respect a team that won its domestic league so crushingly last season and there is no easy draw at this stage of the competition, but I admit there are a couple of Roda JC Kerkrade tough ties out there. I'm thinking, in particular, of the Dynamo Kiev-Juventus one." Slavia Prague v VfB Stuttgart

If United could afford to look ahead, Brian Little, the AEK Athens v Villa manager, was not allow-ing himself that luxury. His Lokomotiv Moscov Real Betis v obdurate side has already confounded the sceptics by outlasting Bordeaux, Steuea Bucharest and another Span nd leg: March 18 Second leg: March 17 Second leg: March 19 ish side, Athletic Bilbao, but this match, against the conquerors of Leicester City, will be their toughest test so far. TWO

part of their midfield.

Trafford a fortnight later.

first and we have got that.

Atlético Madrid, still labouring in the giant shadows cast by Barcelona and Real Madrid, put nine goals past the PAOK Salonica side that eliminated Arsenal from the competition. Formidable in attack, they have players such as Christian Vieri, the Italy forward, and the prodigiously-gifted Juninho. "We know it will be an extremely tough game," Little said. "They were one of the favourites from the beginning of the competition and we will have a healthy respect for them."

Like Ferguson, though, Little drew solace from the fact that Villa had been drawn away first. The same happy fate befell Chelsea. Betis are one of the better teams left in a competition that has been devalued by the Champions' League decision to take the top two teams from the champi-onships of leading countries. Betis, whose leading player

is their forward, Alfonso, who nearly joined Barcelona for £25 million last season, bemoaned their misfortune in drawing Chelsea. There is a faint possibility that their own world record signing. Denilson, whom they prised away from São Paulo in Brazil for £21.5 million, may be available, but it is unlikely. They do have Finidi

George, the Nigeria World Cup player, and Robert Jarni, the Croatia wing back, but were crestfallen about the draw. "They are the one team we did not want to play," a club spokesman said.

THURSDAY DECEMBER 18 1997



Seizinger looks totally focused as she sweeps downhill at Val d'Isere on her way to her fifth victory of the season in a speed event

Seizinger stretches her lead downhill

KATJA SEIZINGER confirmed that she was in a class of her own when she won a women's downhill at Val d'Isere, France, vesterday her fifth consecutive victory in a speed event this season. The 25-year-old German trailed Ingeborg Marken, of Norv. by u.uzsec an leg, but was unbeatable in the

With a combined time of 2min I.82sec, Seizinger, the leader in the World Cup competition, beat Hilde Gerg, her compatriot, by 0.49sec. Marken finished in third place, her best in a downhill,

0.62sec behind the winner. Seizinger, the Olympic downhill champion, has won every speed event so far this season. building up an impressive lead in the World Cup standings. Seizinger has 643 points, ond place on 429.

I prefer to concentrate on each race and see what happens," Seizinger said. "I can't really say where all this is leading to. Today I also had a lot of luck, the race was surely not the most fair." Seizinger said she takes

By Our Sports Staff fewer risks than other com-

petitors. "I ski by instinct," she said. "My coaches say I can go faster. I am not doing 100 per cent. It's not Her rivals would not have

add: "I abhor this type of race.

I prefer the downhill from top to bottom. Here the bottom is do the same elements twice." The German has a chance

to leave her rivals further behind today in the third super-giant slalom of the

season. Her win vesterday, in the third downhill of the season, was her fifteenth in a downhill and the 33rd in her career, making her the third-most successful skier, with

Hanni Wenzel, The race was held in two legs on a shortened Oreiller-Killy piste after strong winds twice halted the morning run. Poor weather has hampered the start of the European season. Two women's

events were postponed here

last week and the races due to

Swiss resort of Veysonnaz were moved to Val d'Isere.

The downhill yesterday marked the return to World Cup action of Seizinger's main rivals of the past two seasons, Picabo Street, of the United States, and Pernilla Widerg, of Sweden.

Street, who suffered a serious knee injury a year ago, finished in a promising tenth place on 2min 3.85sec, but Wiberg, the World Cup titleholder, who hurt her knee in training before the start of the season, finished out of the

English clubs ready for drastic action over cup

RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

French tournament and ac-

knowledge the need to involve

as many countries as possible

so that the competition can be

as pan-European as existing

playing standards allow. Yet

they also want to ensure a

quality that will, eventually, allow a genuine challenge to

the Super 12 provinces of the

southern hemisphere and gen-

Robinson: calls for switch

erate more money through

gate receipts and sponsorship.

Charles Levison, of Wasps,

who is one of the English

directors on the ERC board.

said. "English clubs have writ-ten to ERC on a number of

issues, the main one of which

is the eligibility of teams for

the competition. We are con-

cerned about improving the

quality, as well as the equita-

The ongoing argument con-

cerns the Scottish and Irish

ble distribution of money."

"Money isn't the only issue,"

ENGLISH club representa-tives will go into European Rugby Cup board meeting tomorrow prepared to withdraw from the Heineken Cup next season unless the existing structure is changed. They seek a tournament based on merit, with greater financial rewards for success, and believe that their opinions are. shared by France.

The meeting in Dublin comes on the eve of this season's cup semi-finals, in which Bath seek to prevent a French monopoly on Saturday by beating Pau, while, on Sunday, Toulouse meet Brive, the holders, in a match that attracted 60,000 applicants for tickets to the municipal stadi-um, where the capacity is only

"English clubs are not prepared to enter the European competition next season if it retains the same structure, with the same rewards," David Tyler, representing the English Rugby Partnership (ERP), said. They feel they have allies in the French clubs, who are happy with the structure but less happy with the

The tournament, now in its third year, has grown significantly in size and payments to clubs since Brive's success against Leicester last January. However, there is mounting unhappiness about its placement in the season - Andy Robinson, the Bath director of coaching, called yesterday for it to be played after Christmas to encourage the growth of a sustained domestic league programme before the holiday period - and the uneven

quality of play.

English club representaprovinces; each country has tives firmly deny that they three teams in the Heineken seek an exclusive Anglo-Cup, compared with four clubs each from France, England and Wales, but one English official said: "We are worried that the Scots and the Irish are using this as their basic competition because they don't have teams of sufficient quality to play do-

The Scots have addressed the problem by re-inventing their district teams as club organisations and have gone further by establishing elite development squads: Glasgow, for example, will send a development party to New Zealand next summer, whereas in England it is the premiership clubs who have taken up the development banner, through recently in-

stituted academies of youth. "The clubs have done England a gigantic favour since they have, in effect, 12 divisionteams." Bob Dwyer, the Leicester director of rugby, said. "We need to make sure we don't have too many clubs in one area [hence the socalled super-club strategy that is one of the fashionable theories being aired] but there is nothing to suggest that a Rugby Football Union-appointed administration in the regions would do the job better than what is being done

aiready.
The RFU haven't even got an elite development policy which fledgling countries — I mean New Zealand and Australia — have put in place."
Some ERC directors will argue that the competition must be given time to develop. though it is possible that tomorrow's discussion will consider qualifying tournaments, such as the recentlymooted Celtic Cup involving teams from Scotland, Ireland



THE BOOKSHOP

ACROSS: 1 Dovetail 5 Swap 9 Fall into place 10 Pang 11 Nineveh 13 Lustre 15 Kaiser 18 Picasso 20 Cool

DOWN: 1 Daft 2 Volga 3 Trigger 4 Intone 6 Wharves 7 Plethora 8 Span 12 Slipshod 14 Secular 16 Ancient 17 Mouser 19 Slew 21 Otter 22 Aria

No 1280

Skilled worker (once) (7)

Popeye's magic veg (7)

Path out of one's way (6)

13 (Violin) plucked (9) 15 A reptile; file of children (9)

19 Friedrich - worked with Marx (6)

One running and jumping (7)

24 One with black/white par-

21 Morning prayer (7)

1 Laid with stones (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1279

23 Helter-skelter 24 Dirk 25 Criteria

ents (7)

Doughty (7)

2 Sense of taste; roof of

3 (Machine) start to go

5 Outdoor meal (6)

6 Shortage (7)

travel (6)

16 Brief snooze (6)

17 Catch in snare (6)

wrong; exaggerate (4,2)

4 Light touches; bits of butter

10 One requiring solution (6)

14 Collapse; come to end of term (5.2)

18 Loose skin fold by jowl (6)

20 Tiny piece; abandon (5)

22 Denounce: emporium (4)

Afflicted by (-6); sat on for

NEW TIMES CROSSWORD TITLES NOW AVAILABLE

